

Cheysson seeks Lagos' role in Chad

LAGOS (R) — French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson Friday urged Nigeria to play a role in getting Chad's warring factions to reconciliation talks, informed sources said. The sources said after talks between Mr. Cheysson and Nigerian External Affairs Minister Ibrahim Gambari, France also wanted Nigeria to mediate between France and Libya to achieve an agreement on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Chad. They said Mr. Cheysson reaffirmed earlier statements that Paris would not pull out some 3,000 troops in Chad backing President Hissene Habre until Libyan troops it alleges are in northern Chad are withdrawn. Libya denies having any troops with the rebel forces of former Chad President Goukouni Oueddei in northern Chad.

Jordan Times

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Klibi briefed on Jordanian decision

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia and the Arab League met with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi Friday to inform him of Jordan's decision to sever relations with Libya, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported from Tunis. The ambassador, Nabih Al Nimer, explained to Mr. Klibi the reasons behind the decision and briefed Mr. Klibi on the burning of the Jordanian embassy in Tripoli last Saturday for which the Jordanian government held the Libyan regime responsible. Petra said, Mr. Nimer also reviewed with Mr. Klibi reasons that caused the Arab League to postpone the 13th Arab summit conference which was due to have been held in Riyadh in March. Mr. Nimer voiced Jordan's hope that conditions in the Arab World will improve to allow the convening of the summit as soon as possible, the agency said.

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Queen to open anthropology exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will open Saturday an exhibition of ethnographic photographic exhibition entitled "Settled Bedouin in the Jordan Valley: Patterns of Life." The exhibition is part of the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLNA) collection of documentary photographs taken by anthropologist Lida Layne, Layne who recently completed two years of anthropological fieldwork in the middle region of the Jordan Valley.

'Obeidat receives Kohl's message

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Thursday received a message from West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The message was delivered to Mr. 'Obeidat by the ambassador of the Federal Republic Germany, Hermann Munz, in a meeting at the Prime Ministry.

Yugoslav foreign minister in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Yugoslav Foreign Minister Lazar Mojsov arrived Friday, one day to advance of an official visit to Egypt by his head of state, President Mika Spiljak is due here Saturday on the first leg of an Arab tour that will take him also to North Yemen and South Yemen. The official Middle East news agency quoted Mr. Mojsov as saying on arrival that Mr. Spiljak's visit at this time was of "special importance in view of current tensions in the Middle East."

Qadhafi sends message to India

NEW DELHI (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's wife arrived here Friday to seek Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's intervention in the escalating Iran-Iraq war. The spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said Mrs. Qadhafi, who led a 35-member delegation, carried a special message from the Libyan strongman. Coauthors of the message was not disclosed, but Mrs. Qadhafi was expected to ask the Indian prime minister, leader of the 101-nation Non-Aligned Movement, to take an immediate initiative to cool the situation in the Gulf.

Shamir says he will not trust PLO

AMSTERDAM (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said his country would not trust the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) even if it recognised Israel. In an interview with Dutch television broadcast Thursday night, Shamir repeated his country's insistence that it would not negotiate with a movement "born on Israel's destruction." Asked if this view would change if the PLO officially recognised Israel, Mr. Shamir replied: "I do not think it will come, but even if they say they will recognise Israel, we will not trust them."

Baghdad seeks help to remove Iranian dead

Heavy fighting flares on Gulf war front

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iran and Iraq both reported heavy fighting along their extensive battlefield Thursday and Friday and Baghdad said it was seeking international help to remove Iranian dead from the southern war front.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said in Iraqio F-14 fighter-bomber had been shot down in a dogfight near the Iranian border town of Susangerd on the southern front.

Another Iranian aircraft attempting to raid Iraqi positions in the Shahr sector was also hit by anti-aircraft fire and was seen falling to flames inside Iranian territory, an Iraqi military spokesman said.

Iraq's Culture and Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassam, meanwhile, appealed to international humanitarian organisations to call on Iran to remove its dead from the battlefield.

INA quoted him as saying thousands of Iranian dead were littering Iraq's land in the Iraqi Third and Fourth Army Corps sectors where Tehran's latest offensive was launched earlier this week.

At the United Nations, Iraq, charging Iran with sharply escalating the 41-month-old war, also pledged Friday to use all the effective means at its disposal "to crush the aggressor."

Asked whether Iraq planned to attack Iranian oil installations, Riyadh Al Qaysi, the Iraqi chief delegate to the U.N., told reporters that "everyone should expect there are limits to patience."

He said he wished there was as much concern about Iraq's security as the concern that was expressed about keeping open the Strait of Hormuz.

Iraqi long-range missiles struck the cities of Khorramabad and Borujerd deep inside Iran around 1 a.m. Friday (2130 GMT Thursday) killing 59 and wounding 350, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said.

Iran began shelling Basra, Iraq's second largest city, in retaliation for the missile attacks, IRNA said, quoting a statement attributed to Iran's war information headquarters.

On the battlefronts, Iranian forces "continued to push deeper" into southern Iraq between Basra and Al Amarah, IRNA claimed. But Baghdad Radio said the Baghdad-Basra highway remained open and secure despite reports of Iranian attacks, while other towns and cities in the southern war zone were calm.

Confusion prevails over latest ceasefire in Lebanese fighting

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The Lebanese army said Friday it was observing a ceasefire announced Thursday night in Damascus, but officials of two main Syrian-backed rebel militias said they had never been contacted about it.

Saudi mediator Prince Badar Ibn Sultan had told reporters in the Syrian capital that agreement had been reached for a general truce likely to be announced around midday Friday.

"We are in contact with all the parties now," he said. A spokesman for the Lebanese army told Reuters army units had stopped firing following the agreement.

But there had been no public announcement on it by mid-afternoon and Nabih Berri, leader of the powerful Shiite Muslim militia Amal (hope), said he had nothing to do with it.

"Actually we did not participate in (negotiating) it and nobody contacted us," he told a news conference.

He said his forces were in any case committed to not fighting if they were not fired on. "It will be sufficient to tell the state: stop shooting at the people. The matter does not need all these meetings," Mr. Berri said.

Officials of the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), the other main opposition militia headed by Walid Junblatt, said

fluence of the ancient Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

The local officials, including the town's governor and a representative of the Baath Party, said the Iranians had crossed the Howeiza marshlands in the 30-kilometre stretch between Al Qurnah and the Iran-Iraq border.

But the Iraqi forces encircled the Iranians and completely wiped them out in the early hours of Thursday, the officials said.

Al Qurnah is some 70 kilometres north-west of Basra. Just outside the town, the two mighty rivers meet and flow into the narrow 150 kilometre waterway known as the Shatt Al Arab which leads to the head of the Gulf.

An Iraqi high command communique issued Thursday night said 4,773 Iranians were killed during the past 24 hours of fighting on two fronts. Twelve tanks and large quantities of weapons were destroyed, the high command said.

The communique said Iraqi jets and helicopters flew 229 combat missions against Iranian forces. One Iraqi jet was lost.

Iraq also said Iranian artillery shelled Basra and other towns, while two Iranian jets attacked the area of Al Amarah.

In Stockholm, the Iraqi charge d'affaires said Friday he had called on Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, the official mediator in the Gulf war, to appeal for a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq.

The charge d'affaires, Amer Najid, told Reuters he had made the request Thursday on the instructions of his government at a meeting with Jan Eliasson, head of the political department of the Swedish Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Palme was appointed by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar as the official mediator in the Gulf war. He discussed the war with Iraqi representatives in Moscow earlier this month at the funeral of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov.

Swedish officials quoted Mr. Palme as commenting that he would be ready to resume his mediating efforts as soon as both warring parties wanted him to make a new peace mission to the area or when the U.N. secretary-general asked him to go.

Reagan warns Iraq; U.S. believes Iraq can handle any threat to Hormuz; Evren pledges to mediate Gulf war settlement, page 2

King 'phones Iraqi leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday made a telephone call to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to enquire about the situation in Iran-Iraq war, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

President Hussein assured the King that the Iraqi forces had achieved victory over the Iranian forces by completely "crushing the waves of aggression" in the latest Iranian offensive, Petra said.

King Hussein paid tribute to the Iraqi people and armed forces for repelling the Iranian aggression and achieving victory, Petra said. The Iraqi president expressed Iraq's appreciation for Jordan's support for the Iraqi people, the agency added.

they had no word about implementation of a ceasefire.

A military spokesman for the rival rightist "Lebanese forces" militia allied to the army said the same.

12 killed

Earlier Friday, rival militias battled with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns in Beirut and the Shouf mountains and police said 12 people were killed and 27 wounded from midnight to dawn.

The fighting pitted Amal militia in the predominantly Muslim west Beirut against the mainly Christian rightists in their eastern sector of the city, police said.

PSP militiamen and fighters of the rightist Falange Party also duelled with artillery and multiple rocket launchers overnight in the Shouf hills of the Kharoub region overlooking of Israeli positions in southern Lebanon, according to police.

Sporadic shooting could be heard along the "green line" dividing Beirut.

There were also reports of occasional shelling and small arms fire in the mountains southeast of the capital where the army confronts PSP forces.

The PSP's "Voice of the Mountain" radio said the army was

continuing to shell its positions while right-wing "Voice of Lebanon" radio said army positions in the mountain town of Souk Al Gharb were also being hit.

Amid the confusion over the ceasefire, American Marines stationed around Beirut airport south of the city, now surrounded by militia-held territory, made their final preparations to pull back to U.S. navy ships lying offshore.

Israeli raids

On Thursday Israeli jets bombed positions in the Lebanese mountains as Lebanese army troops began patrolling west Beirut under an agreement with the militia.

In their third air strike since last Sunday, Israeli planes attacked targets near Bhamdoun, about 20 kilometres southeast of the capital, on the Beirut-Damascus highway.

Bhamdoun and much of the surrounding mountains are controlled by PSP fighters.

Syria said the air raids killed and wounded several civilians before the planes were forced to flee by Syrian anti-aircraft defences.

The official news agency SANA quoted a Syrian military spokesman as saying four Israeli planes took part in the raids on the Bhamdoun region, hitting civilian targets.

5 Israelis killed in Sidon attack

BEIRUT (R) — At least five Israeli soldiers were killed Friday in an ambush in the port of Sidon in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon, Beirut Radio stations reported.

State-run Beirut Radio, quoting eyewitnesses, said a shell was fired at a patrol in mid-afternoon killing five soldiers.

Right-wing "Voice of Lebanon" radio said six Israeli troops were killed or wounded in a "so operation" against an Israeli patrol in the Baasir district at the southern entrance to the city.

In Tel Aviv, an Israeli army spokesman Friday denied the radio reports. "I deny it totally," he said.

A few minutes later, the Israelis, according to the reports,

Israelis massacre 4 in Lebanon

SIDON, South Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli troops opened fire on demonstrators protesting against the arrest of Lebanese civilians in the South Lebanon village of Maarakeb near Tyre Friday killing four and wounding 25, the Associated Press quoted eyewitnesses and security forces as saying.

Four people were killed and 25 wounded, according to witnesses who asked at their names not be used. Three of the injured people were reported in "critical" condition in hospitals here.

Security sources said an Israeli unit, escorted by armoured personnel carriers and tanks, entered the village and arrested some inhabitants without giving any reason for the action.

The residents of Maarakeb, 10 kilometres southeast of the coastal city of Tyre, gathered at the village's main mosque and began stoning the troops. One security report said several Israelis were injured.

In Beirut, Nabih Berri, leader of the "Amal" movement, the largest Shiite Muslim militia group, said at a news conference that he

opened up with automatic rifles and shot at the demonstrators, killing four people and wounding 25 others.

Reporters in southern Lebanon reached by telephone said Israeli troops surrounded the village after the shooting and would not allow people in or out of the village for eight hours.

Israeli soldiers for 11 hours sealed off Maarakeb where gunfire and explosions were heard and ambulances were seen leaving, according to a United Nations spokesman in Tel Aviv.

Timur Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said the Israelis left the village about 2:30 p.m. (1230 GMT). He said the Israelis refused to let U.N. soldiers, U.N. medical teams and local Lebanese Red Cross staffers enter the village until shortly before their troops pulled out.

In Beirut, Nabih Berri, leader of the "Amal" movement, the largest Shiite Muslim militia group, said at a news conference that he

had sent urgent messages to countries contributing to the UNIFIL asking them to intervene and ease the tensions.

He said the Israelis stormed and shelled the village, where they had recently arrested the local deputy Amal chief, who the villagers refused to allow the troops to enter.

"They brought in helicopters and a large number of tanks. They surrounded the village and stormed it. Amal youths resisted as well as the villagers with stones and batons," Mr. Berri said.

Several houses in the village were destroyed, he added.

He said he had contacted ambassadors of "big powers" in Beirut to intervene to halt such Israeli actions.

In Tel Aviv, an Israeli military spokesman said he had no information but Reuters quoted military sources as confirming that Israeli soldiers opened fire in Maarakeh. But the sources said only two people were wounded in the incident.

Arafat expected in Amman Sunday or Monday

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is expected to arrive Sunday or Monday to resume talks with His Majesty King Hussein on finding a joint framework for Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Deputy Commander of PLO forces Khalil Al Wazir said Friday.

Mr. Wazir, popularly known as Abu Jihad, and Mr. Hani Al Hassan, a political advisor to Mr. Arafat, arrived here Thursday after attending a meeting of the Central Committee of Fateh, the largest PLO organisation and Mr. Arafat's power-base.

Mr. Wazir told the Jordan Times that intensive meetings of the Central Committee defined the objective of the projected Jordanian-PLO talks as "the strengthening of bilateral relations and maintaining the continuity of a Jordanian-PLO dialogue."

The last rounds of talks between Jordan and the PLO came to a deadlock last April because of failure to reach an agreement. But, Mr. Wazir said Friday that "even if the two sides do not reach political harmony, the PLO is concerned that contacts and talks with Jordan should continue."

"Strengthening relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples is in itself a major objective of the PLO in accordance with Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions," he said.

A resolution adopted by the PNC in February 1983 in Algiers endorsed an establishment of Jordanian-Palestinian confederal ties.

Mr. Wazir Friday cautioned against expectations of any breakthrough concerning a peaceful settlement for the Palestinian question. "We think that this is a year of political stalemate over efforts for solving the Palestinian question," he said.

He explained that the PLO does not believe that there is any viable

and possible peace settlement at the present. "However, we believe that it is extremely important that Jordan and the PLO should work to find a common approach as a basis for joint political moves," Mr. Wazir said. He added: "These joint political moves will be directed towards Europe and the Soviet Union."

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee member Abdul Rahim Ahmad told the Associated Press (AP) news agency Friday that "there is a common understanding in which each of us (Jordan and the PLO) is acting in the interest of the unity of our destinies and harbours hopes for the future."

Mr. Ahmad, leader of the Arab Liberation Front (ALF), described present Jordanian-PLO relations as "good" and said the aim of the forthcoming talks is "to achieve a common co-existence on a confederation basis."

Kaddoumi-Khaddam talks in a related development, Palestinian officials told the Jordan Times Thursday that last week's visit by the head of the PLO's Foreign Department, Farouk Al Kaddoumi, to Syria did not produce "very fruitful results."

The officials revealed that Mr. Kaddoumi met Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam "at a private dinner party."

Details of the PLO official's discussions with Mr. Khaddam were not disclosed. The officials also said that a seven-hour meeting among Mr. Kaddoumi, Mr. Khaddam and Mr. Khaled Al Hassan, a senior PLO political advisor, had taken place in Morocco last January during the summit conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. The officials added that these meetings were followed by contacts between the Fateh Central Committee and Syria. "Fateh is concerned to better relations with Syria on the basis of preserving the independent Palestinian decision-making," they said.

Middle East situation necessitates immediate initiative, Dankert says

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — European Parliament President Pieter Dankert said Friday that the current situation in the Middle East is "causing an enormous pressure and a great degree of nervousness" which call for an "immediate peace initiative to solve the deadlock before it is too late."

In an interview with the Jordan Times prior to his departure Friday after concluding a three-day visit, Mr. Dankert said: "There is a great degree of moderation from the Jordanian side and a certain hope for liberating the occupied West Bank through peaceful means." Mr. Dankert was referring to the forthcoming talks between His Majesty King Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is due to arrive in Amman soon.

During his visit to Jordan, Mr. Dankert was received by King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Minister

of Information Laila Sbaraf, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akel Al Fayez respectively, and other Jordanian officials.

At the meetings, Mr. Dankert discussed the situation in the Middle East in general, the Lebanese problem, the Iran-Iraq war and ways to achieve a lasting solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict in the light of the latest developments in the area.

Mr. Dankert said that during his visit to Israel earlier this month, Israeli officials talked about "autonomy" for the Palestinian people, and he described the proposed "autonomy" as colonialism, pointing out that the Israeli attitude is similar to French proposals for autonomy for the French population in Algeria in the sixties.

"With the restoration of the Jordanian Parliament, the situation now is ready for an initiative to be launched by Jordan in the light of King Hussein's talks with Mr. Arafat," Mr. Dankert said. "There is no fear now from a

failure in the forthcoming talks because the situation in the Middle East as well as Mr. Arafat's position have changed since last April."

Mr. Dankert said: "Jordan is working in an international political context and cannot make itself dependent on Mr. Arafat or anybody else in the region. Mr. Arafat has to make up his mind on whether he wants to become a kind of roving ambassador without people or whether he wants to be a representative of a moderate West Bank."

"There is undoubtedly an ideological and symbolic support in the West Bank for the PLO but nobody knows what in reality this means when it comes down to whether to have progress or to keep 'dreaming endlessly'."

"There is a feeling in the area," Mr. Dankert said, "that it is still difficult to launch any Jordanian initiative prior to the forthcoming American presidential elections as well as the U.S. refusal to intervene or act as a kind of guarantor exercising the necessary pressure on Israel."

Time running out, Syria warns Lebanon

By Dina Matar
Reporter

DAMASCUS — The Syrian government newspaper Tishrin said Friday Syria was keen to end factional fighting in Lebanon to help achieve a national dialogue there but warned time was running out.

The daily newspaper also said a dialogue could only be initiated when the Lebanese government committed itself to principles agreed on during last year's Geneva conciliation talks.

The comments came a few hours after Saudi Arabian mediator Prince Bandar Ibn Sultan announced in Damascus Thursday night that agreement had been

reached for a general ceasefire in Lebanon. It was not clear, however, when it would go into effect.

Tishrin said: "Syria has made clear its concern to stop the fighting in Lebanon to help give impetus to conciliation... but the Lebanese government has to commit itself to the principles agreed at the Geneva conference and translate these into realistic resolutions."

These resolutions, it said, involved scrapping last May's Lebanon-Israeli troop withdrawal agreement, an end to all dealings with Israel and reforms within Lebanon's institutions.

Syria's position was not negotiable, Tishrin said. "The ball is now in the Lebanese government court and it could be the last ball this time," it warned.

The Tishrin article is the only Syrian comment so far on Prince Bandar's announcement, which did not spell out the ceasefire terms.

But opposition sources in Beirut have said Saudi Arabia had proposed the appointment of a new Lebanese prime minister, public abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal agreement and a resumption of the conciliation conference.

Saudi sources said in Damascus it was important to bring about a ceasefire to pave the way for a political consensus on an overall settlement.

Junblatt says he does not plan to visit U.S. now

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The leader of the Lebanese opposition Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), Walid Junblatt, Friday denied reports that he plans to visit the United States in response to an invitation by an American Druze Organisation.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Junblatt said he had received an invitation from the National Press Club and not from the American Druze Society, although he had planned to visit the society.

Mr. Junblatt, who arrived in Amman Thursday, added that he has not applied for a U.S. visa because "it is not the appropriate time to visit America."

Commenting on an earlier report by U.S. officials that his visa application would be subject to thorough inquiries, Mr. Junblatt said that it was the first time the U.S. makes inquiries about him. "They recently discovered that I am a member of the World Peace Council which adopts a policy against the American one," he said.

The U.S. inquiries about him, Mr. Junblatt said, was "natural because all members of the World Peace Council are subject to thorough scrutiny by the U.S. administration." Mr. Junblatt added that his family has been a member of the council for many generations.

Turkish festival (see page 6)

INSIDE

- Lebanon says U.N. force should be limited to Beirut area, page 2
- U.N. mission, MPs discuss West Bank situation, page 3
- Amal's Berri — a balancing force in Lebanon, page 4
- Campaign for European Parliament shapes up, page 5
- France leads India in Davis Cup, page 6
- U.S., Japan clash over financial liberalisation measures, page 7
- U.S. welcomes Soviet move on chemical weapons, page 8

هكذا صنع الأصل

Lebanon says U.N. force should not be limited to Beirut area

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Lebanon has approved in principle a French proposal to dispatch United Nations troops to Beirut but said this was only a "partial and limited" move and that the force should operate in all parts of the country.

Lebanese Ambassador Rachid Fakhoury was addressing the Security Council Thursday night when he briefly resumed its debate on the French initiative after a week-long recess.

The session coincided with an announcement in Damascus on agreement on a general ceasefire among the warring factions.

The council adjourned again later without setting a date for its next meeting on this item.

Mr. Fakhoury said: "Lebanon approves in principle the dispatching of U.N. forces or observers to assist in restoring security and stability in Lebanon and to restore the legitimate authority over Lebanon to the Lebanese authorities."

But while the proposal to send international forces to the Beirut area alone represented a "positive movement," it remained "partial and limited."

"Any international force which may be dispatched to Lebanon must have the means and effectiveness to fully undertake its tasks in all the Lebanese regions fully," he stated.

The task of the new U.N. force would be to monitor the ceasefire and help protect the civilian populations, particularly in the refugee camps. But it would be barred from intervening in Lebanon's internal affairs.

Mr. Fakhoury said that as far back as September 1983 Lebanon approached the council to ask for help. Thus, he added Lebanon now approves in principle the dispatch of U.N. forces or observers to assist in restoring peace to Lebanon as outlined in a draft proposal by France, currently before the council.

Speaking with reporters after the formal council session, Mr. Fakhoury stressed that U.N. forces, if deployed, should be assigned to all sections of the country up to internationally recognised boundaries and should not be used to partition the country.

"What we need is a U.N. force, but this force must be effective to help us to go throughout Lebanon to insure our sovereignty and authority," said the ambassador.

He added that he was not ruling out U.N. forces in just the Beirut area as had been suggested, but he said he merely wanted to make the point that the entire situation must be taken into account.

"We ask the Security Council to discuss any project (with the Lebanese government)," he said. "There is no precondition. We are open. If anybody has a suggestion we are ready to discuss it."

"I don't want U.N. forces in Lebanon to watch and just do nothing. If the Multi-National Force cannot do anything, do you think the U.N. can do it (keep the peace)?" he asked.

The French government formally proposed a resolution Feb. 23 that would issue an urgent appeal for an immediate ceasefire.

request the secretary-general to make all arrangements to enable the Beirut Observer Force currently deployed to monitor compliance with the cease-fire and would deploy a U.N. peace-keeping force.

The French resolution stipulates that the force would not contain contingents from countries that are permanent members of the Security Council (Great Britain, France, China, United States and the Soviet Union) and may, if appropriate, be comprised of contingents of the 5,700-man U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) now deployed in southern Lebanon.

In addition, the resolution states that the new force would take up its position in Beirut after the departure of the last element of the Multinational Force contingents have left the territory and waters under Lebanese sovereignty.

The Security Council has been meeting in private consultations for several days to discuss the French proposal and any other alternatives.

Shultz: U.S. had contacts with PLO

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State George Shultz acknowledged that the Reagan administration has had indirect contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) but said they yielded little.

He told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that contacts of the kind described in the press were no longer taking place.

The New York Times said on Sunday that the administration had conducted secret talks through an intermediary with PLO leader Yasser Arafat for nine months.

The PLO was said to have broken them off after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982.

"As I have looked at the record of those meetings, what was talked about in private was identical with what was talked about in public,"

Mr. Shultz said. "And if it proved anything, it was that the constant refrain that we hear — that if only we would sit down with the PLO and talk with them everything would start falling in place — is simply not the case."

Mr. Shultz said there were numerous discussions with the PLO through Arab states. "Practically every Arab leader who comes to the United States or who you run into has a message," he said.

"The problem isn't with the communication system. The problem is with the content."

The secretary of state said that perhaps everyone could learn from the contacts "in terms of what was accomplished and what was not accomplished — the lack of accomplishment."

He added that the contacts were not inconsistent with U.S. relations with Israel.

U.S. policy is to have no direct dealings with the PLO as long as it refuses to accept United Nations resolutions on the Arab-Israeli dispute or acknowledge Israel's right to exist.

Mr. Shultz also assured the Senate panel that the United States will continue its efforts to urge a broader based government in Lebanon, seek a ceasefire and help to bring about the withdrawal of all foreign forces. But Mr. Shultz admitted "it seems like a long way away."

He reiterated the U.S. position that the status of Jerusalem should be settled through negotiations and that the city should remain united.

U.S. urged to take tougher attitude towards terrorism

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz said Friday the United States must take a more aggressive attitude towards what he described as the kind of state-sponsored terrorism that had emerged in Lebanon.

He said last year's bombings of the U.S. embassy and Marine headquarters in Beirut were a new sort of warfare.

"We have to improve our intelligence capability and we have to think through how, within the concept of the rule of law, we can take a more aggressive posture toward what is a worldwide and very undesirable trend," he said.

Washington opposes moving embassy to Jerusalem

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Reagan administration, while emphasizing that it has been and remains Israel's strongest supporter, firmly opposes a congressional proposal to move the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

"Our policy on this issue has been resolute for more than three decades," Lawrence Eagleburger, undersecretary of state for political affairs, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Feb. 23.

"Most recently," Mr. Eagleburger reminded the committee, "President Reagan stated in his Sept. 1, 1982, Middle East peace initiative that '... we remain convinced that Jerusalem must remain undivided, but its final status would be decided through negotiations.'"

"If this bill does not pass... I would hazard to guess that our bilateral relationship with the state of Israel will not be fundamentally affected," Mr. Eagleburger said. "In fact the Israelis... will understand... that other issues are in fact far more important."

Senator Daniel Moynihan, who introduced the bill in the Senate, asserted that "Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and our embassy in that state should be in its capital... we should not avoid the most elementary of facts that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel."

"That is where the Knesset is," said Sen. Moynihan. "That is where the president's home is. That is where the business of the government of Israel is conducted... Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. Nothing can change that. Nothing will," Mr. Eagleburger warned.

however, that "a change in the U.S. position on the status of Jerusalem would seriously undermine our ability to play an effective role in the Middle East peace process."

Mr. Eagleburger also cautioned committee members that the proposed legislation to move the embassy "would be a direct interference in the president's constitutional authority to conduct foreign affairs."

Two congressmen, who proposed new legislation Feb. 21 to move the American embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, predicted Wednesday that the measure would pass both houses of the U.S. Congress.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State George Shultz expressed the Reagan administration's firm opposition to the proposal.

Representatives Tom Lantos and Dan Glickman proposed the legislation, which replaces separate bills they offered earlier. Both the new and old measures match the language in a bill introduced Oct. 31 by Senator Daniel Moynihan.

The legislation, which would reverse three decades of U.S. policy on Jerusalem, would require that the embassy and the American ambassador's official residence be moved to Jerusalem.

"This is not a symbolic gesture," Mr. Lantos said at a news conference on Wednesday. "We have every expectation of the legislation passing both houses."

"It is our intention to persuade the president, in line with his own statements expressing his support for a united Jerusalem, that when the house and the Senate pass this legislation, he sign it into law."



Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz is welcomed by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to her 10 Downing Street residence in London Wednesday (AP wirephoto)

Saudi crown prince looks at new British super tank

LONDON (R) — Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz watched Britain's new super tank, the Challenger, demonstrate its firepower Thursday.

Prince Abdullah, on an official visit to Britain, saw two Challenger fire live ammunition on a range near Bovington Camp, southern England, where Lawrence of Arabia once served in the ranks with the Royal Tank Regiment.

The prince also visited a nearby tank training area.

The Ministry of Defence and the Saudi Embassy said Prince Abdullah was not considering buying the tank, but merely having a demonstration of what was available in Britain for a tank training unit.

Prince Abdullah arrived in London Wednesday from Syria where he has been trying to mediate in the Lebanon conflict.

Later Prince Abdullah met with British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe Friday and was told of Britain's support for Saudi mediation efforts in Lebanon.

Sir Geoffrey called on the prince at his hotel at the close of his official three-day visit.

The Foreign Office said that besides Lebanon, the two discussed latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war which might pose a threat to oil lanes in the Gulf.

The hour-long discussion was described as "warm and friendly."

No further details were disclosed.

The prince later went to Buckingham Palace to lunch with Queen Elizabeth II.

Polisario will not attend OAU ministerial meeting

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) conference of foreign ministers, scheduled to start Monday, was spared possible disruption when the Polisario Liberation Front announced Friday it would not attend.

Hakim Ibrahim, the front's foreign minister, said it "had decided with all sovereignty" to abstain itself from the OAU council of ministers session here "to prove its co-operation" with the regional body.

But Mr. Hakim stressed that the Polisario, fighting Morocco for control of the Western Sahara, would send a delegation to be seated at the 20th OAU summit expected to be held this May in Conakry, Guinea.

African diplomatic sources said the Polisario had been under considerable pressure from Ethiopia and others to stay away from Monday's meeting. The 19th OAU summit was delayed until the front agreed to stay away following a Moroccan-led boycott. The Chad representation dispute also delayed the summit.

The Polisario Movement was

admitted as the 51st member of the pan-African body in a controversial decision made at an OAU foreign ministers' meeting here in February of 1982. This threatened the OAU with collapse as member states split into two camps — one supporting the Polisario and the other Morocco.

Mr. Hakim, speaking at a news conference, said he had informed Ethiopian Leader Mengistu Haile Mariam, OAU chairman, of the front's decision during talks Thursday.

The Saharan guerrilla leader told reporters Morocco escalated the war in December, employing U.S.-supplied fragmentation bombs in violation of international accords on warfare. He said the bombs had wounded many civilians.

The Moroccan army in the past two months also has attempted to divide the Western Sahara in two by deploying 40,000-45,000 troops along a line from the Moroccan border to the central town of Semara and apparently intended to extend it to the Mauritanian frontier, he said.

Reagan defends foreign policy, warns Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has forcefully defended his foreign policy and repeated warnings to Iran that he would not allow closure of the strategic Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf.

Speaking Wednesday night at his first news conference as a declared candidate for the U.S. presidential election in November, he defended both his policy in Lebanon and his performance at the White House.

Mr. Reagan noted that the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran has threatened to close in its war with Iraq, was an oil shipping lane to Japan and Western Europe.

"There's no way we would allow that (channel) to be closed," he said, amid reports of intensified U.S. naval movements in the area.

He was repeating a statement he made when Iran first made its threat last year. Stepped-up fighting in the 41-month-old Gulf war has aroused fears that Iran would carry out its threat.

Mr. Reagan denied the United States had reneged on its vow to stand firm in Lebanon and said the idea of deploying U.S. Marines there was his.

"We're not bugging out, we are just going into a little more defensible position," he said of his recent order to move the 1,600 Marines in the Multi-national Force in Beirut to the safety of U.S. Navy ships offshore.

To charges of surrender in Lebanon, Mr. Reagan responded: "I don't see their (the Marines') mission as being over yet... that naval task force is going to stay where it is."

Despite the time spent on Lebanon policy and domestic issues, notably high budget deficits, not much new ground was covered in the 22nd news conference of Mr. Reagan's term.

Mr. Reagan went into a long rationale of how the U.S. Marines got to Lebanon, what happened and why they left.

"It's time to review a little history," he began in an answer that lasted almost six minutes and left no clear indication of where U.S. policy would go next in Lebanon.

He said later the Marines might be sent back into Lebanon "if they could improve the possibility of carrying out their mission." "Things don't look too bright," But added: "I don't think you can say we have lost yet."

Mr. Reagan also angrily dismissed a suggestion that Secretary of State George Shultz should resign because of the failure of U.S. policy in Lebanon, saying: "I have every confidence in the world in him. The idea for the mission happened to be mine."

He added: "I have no regret that we went in to try to bring peace... as long as there's a chance for a peaceful solution I'm not going to give up."

U.S. believes navy can handle any Hormuz threat

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States believes allied naval forces can handle any Gulf war threat to the Strait of Hormuz, the Western world's oil lifeline.

As Iran said its troops had made big advances in the 41-month-old war and Iraq said it had won an epic battle east of its southern port of Basra, Pentagon Spokesman Michael Burch declared:

"We believe we can handle any contingency."

Iran has threatened to block the strait in reprisal for any Iraqi attack on its oil facilities. The strait, at the southern end of the Gulf, is the only sea outlet for tankers on which Japan, West Germany and to a lesser extent the United States depend for oil.

President Reagan told a press conference on Wednesday:

"There is no way that we could allow that channel to be closed." Mr. Burch said Thursday: "We

have a sizeable naval presence in both the Indian Ocean and of course we also have a Middle East task force that operates in and out of the Persian Gulf."

He noted there were about 30 U.S. navy ships in the area, including a battle group headed by the aircraft carrier Midway and five smaller ships based at Bahrain halfway up the western side of the Gulf.

He refused to comment on British press reports that Anglo-American warships had carried out joint exercises to escort tankers through the Gulf to break a blockade.

State Department Spokesman John Hughes said the increased military activity in the Iran-Iraq conflict "deepens one's concern" but there was "no evidence that the lines of battle have changed significantly in the last several days."

Evren pledges to mediate Iran-Iraq war settlement

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Turkish President Kenan Evren pledged Friday to exert "maximum effort" to help bring about a settlement to the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

The pledge was made in a statement read by Gen. Evren to reporters at the end of his visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of

King Fahd. Turkey two years ago joined in an Islamic nations mediation team in futile bids to bring the Gulf war to an end.

King Fahd and President Evren discussed the "serious" implications of the escalating conflict on the Gulf region, Arab diplomatic sources said.

| TV & RADIO | | WHAT'S GOING ON | | FOR THE TRAVELLER | | USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS. | | | | | |
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Correspondent's Reports, Music, Cultural Events and Features 21:00 News | | TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * "Portraits of Landscapes from the Middle East" by Wolfgang Tiech at the Goethe Institute at 9:00 a.m. * Paintings by Saleh Khalil Abu Shindi at the Arts Gallery at 5:00 p.m. * Paintings by Jean-Claude Bourdais at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m. Music programme follows at 8:00 p.m. * Children's exhibition at the theatre of the Department of Culture and Arts. * Paintings by Ahmad Ne'wash at the University of Jordan's Library at 11:00 a.m. FILM * "Russian Film Week" starts at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre. CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre . Tel. 6610267 American Centre 43371 American Centre Library 41520 British Council 36147-8 French Cultural Centre 37009 Goethe Institute 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre 44203 Spanish Cultural Centre 24049 Turkish Cultural Centre 39777 Hays Arts Centre 665195 Hussein Youth City 667181 Y.W.G.A. 41793 Y.W.M.A. 664251 Ayyam Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 843555 MUSEUMS Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 19th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51767 Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an exact collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. PRAYER TIMES 06:47 Fajr 06:09 (Sunrise) Shuruq 11:50 Dhuhur 12:43 'Asr 17:00 Maghrib 18:52 'Isha | | AMMAN AIRPORT This information is supplied by Alia International Airport, Tel. (06) 53250, 53070, 53083, 53171, where it should always be verified. 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Belgian franc 67.7 Dutch guilder 122.9 Egyptian pounds 320.6 French franc 44.9 Iraqi dinar 366 Italian lire (for 100) 32.4 Japanese yen (for 100) 159.5 Kuwaiti dinar 123.6 Lebanese lira 59.1 Omani rial 1077.3 Qatari rial 102.3 Saudi riyal 106.4 Swedish crown 46.7 Swiss franc 168.8 Syrian lira 54.4 UAE dirham 111.6 U.S. sterling pound 539.7 U.S. dollar 372.5 W. German mark 138.5 WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be warm and dry. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Agaba, it will be hazy, with northerly fresh winds and sea calm. Low/high temperature in deg.C Amman 5/18 Agaba 11/24 Deserts 3/18 Jordan Valley 11/26 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Agaba 25. Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Agaba 21 per cent. | | EMERGENCIES Ambulance 193, 75111 Fire, fire, police 199 Blood bank 75121 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 22994-3 Police rescue 192, 2111, 3777 Police headquarters 39141 Traffic police 56390-1 Electric Power Co. 36381-2 Municipal water service 7123-8 Queen Alia Int. Airport 53353 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813-32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4 Akhleh Maternity, J. Amman 44241 Jabal Amman Maternity 42362 Mallat, J. Amman 36140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171-4 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Dr. Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158 Al-Musharraf Hospital 667227-0 The Islamic, Abdali 665292 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164 Italian, Al-Musharraf 77101-3 Al-Bashir, J. Adra 75111 Army, Marja 91611 IRBID Dr. Tareq Mahafzah 5995 Sheikh Salem pharmacy 5173 ZARQA Dr. Ghassan Al-Faqih 86433 Nuha pharmacy 36140 Al-Tawfiq pharmacy (-) GENERAL Jordan Television 73111 Radio Jordan 74111 Ministry of Tourism 42311 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 661176 Telephone: Information 73111 Jordan and Middle East calls 12 Overseas calls 10 Cable or telegram 17 Repair service 11 MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in JLD per kg. Apple 350 / 300 Banana 280 / 240 Banana (Mekammar) 240 / 210 Mango (large) 350 / 300 Cabbage 60 / 40 Carrot 140 / 100 Cauliflower (white) 60 / 40 Cucumber (large) 220 / 180 Cucumber (small) 320 / 250 Celeriac 180 / 150 Eggplant (large) 100 / 80 Eggplant (small) 150 / 120 Figs 400 / 300 Garlic 340 / 280 Grapes (white) 700 / 600 Grapes (black) 700 / 600 Grapefruit 100 / 80 Guava 400 / 300 Lemon 140 / 120 Marrow (large) 100 / 80 Marrow (small) 160 / 130 Mandarin 230 / 200 Olives 350 / 200 Onion (dry) 170 / 140 Onions 150 / 100 Oranges (Abu Surra) 280 / 240 Oranges (Shamouti) 220 / 180 Peas 500 / 400 Pepper (sweet) 540 / 500 Pepper (hot green) 600 / 500 Potatoes 200 / 180 Tangerine 230 / 180 | |

'Israel, Arab Water' symposium opens today

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will open at the Yarmouk University Liaison office here Saturday a symposium on "Israel and Arab Water".

The two-day symposium, which is being organised in co-operation with the London-based Arab Studies Centre, is designed to focus on the importance of Arab water resources in integrated agricultural projects.

Research papers on Arab water will be submitted to the symposium by local, Arab and international experts. The papers deal with development projects in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon as well as projects in the Nile Valley and the adverse effects of Israel's water policies on these projects.

According to the centre's director, Mr. Abdul Majid Farid, Israel's wars against the Arabs since 1948 were aimed at gaining control of Arab water sources.

In a statement to the Jordanian press published Thursday, Mr. Farid called these wars "water wars", and said that Israel's invasion of Lebanon was designed to take control of the Litani River in pursuance of its goals in the Arab region.

We hope that the symposium will focus the world's attention on Israel's practices that impede the implementation of Arab agricultural projects which rely on water sources, Mr. Farid said.

Talks aim to promote tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — Means of promoting tourism in Jordan and the facilities to be provided to tourists, in addition to internal tourism, were discussed Thursday, during a meeting held by the Administrative Committee of the Jordan Hotels Association (JHA).

At the beginning of the meeting, which was presided over by Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani, JHA Chairman Zuhair Al Ajlouni reviewed the association's activities.

Dr. Anani called for the year 1984 to be devoted to promoting internal tourism, and asked the authorities concerned to prepare intensive courses, through an ad hoc committee consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Tourism, JHA and other bodies in the sector, in order to encourage people to visit tourist and archaeological sites in Jordan.

Noor leads afforestation ceremony at Um Qabalein

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Friday took part in a tree planting occasion at Um Qabalein, south of Amman.

The celebration was organised by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), as part of its activities in the field of greening the country and stopping desertification.

The committee, in the belief that planting forest trees is a national responsibility which should be shared in by all people, has drawn up a national afforestation project.

Taking part in Friday's celebration, in addition to Queen Noor, were Information Minister Laila Sharaf, President of the RSCN Anis Mu'asher and society members, Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran, Ministry of Agriculture Under-Secretary Salem Al Lawzi and a number of people.

Queen Noor had earlier taken part in the afforestation of Abdul Hamid Sharaf Wood and Ballan wood in the Amman Governorate.



Director-general of police in Iraq, Maj.-Gen. Abdul Khaleq Abdul Aziz (second from right) with Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman

Arar (to his left) and Public Security Director Lt.-Gen. Mohammad Idris (to his right) prior to his departure Thursday (Petra photo)

Iraqi police chief leaves for home

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-general of police in Iraq, Maj.-Gen. Abdul Khaleq Abdul Aziz, Thursday left for Baghdad after a week-long visit to Jordan.

Maj.-Gen. Abdul Khaleq earlier Thursday met Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar and discussed with him ways of strengthening co-operation in police affairs between Iraq and Jordan.

During the Iraqi police director's visit to Jordan, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said, he met director of Public Security Department (PSD) in Jordan, Lt.-Gen. Mohammad Idris, and a number of senior officials at the PSD.

Talks between the two sides centred on developing co-operation between the two departments in police affairs.

Maj.-Gen. Abdul Khaleq, and his accompanying delegation, visited a number of "Public Security sections and briefed on the achievements and tasks carried out by the various wings of the PSD.

He was seen off at the Queen Alia International Airport by the assistant Public Security director for administrative affairs, Brig. Issa Al Omari.

U.N. team discusses W.Bank with MPs

AMMAN (J.T.) — A U.N. team probing into the effects of Israel's policies and settlements on the Arab inhabitants under occupation rule Thursday met members of the Lower House of Parliament to discuss their mission and to acquaint themselves with the situation in the occupied West Bank.

Deputies, Sami Judeh and Maher Irsheid spoke about the psychological effects of Israel's continued occupation of the West Bank and the obstacles impeding the people's ability to develop their land for agriculture and other uses.

The team's members, who have already met Jordanian officials and ministers, are conducting their work at the request of the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements.

The team has been barred by the Israeli authorities from visiting the occupied Arab territories to study the situation there.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Four die in week's road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Four people were killed and 103 others injured in the 59 road accidents that took place in the Kingdom last week, Traffic Police officials said.

Women, political rights meeting to open

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar entitled "The Jordanian Woman and Her Political Rights" will be held here Saturday. Taking part in the seminar, organised by Amman Club for Business and Professional Women, will be Information Minister Laila Sharaf, Chief Editor of Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper Mahmoud Al Sharif, and the Jordanian Women Federation's chairman, Haila Al Bashir.

Chamber registers 204 new companies

AMMAN (Petra) — The number of industrial firms registered at the Amman Chamber of Industry during 1983 was 204, among which were four public shareholding companies and 16 private shareholding companies, according to chamber officials. The capital registered for these firms amounted to JD 27,811,000 while the value of machinery scheduled to be used by the companies was estimated at JD 20,637,000. The number of jobs created by these industries was put at 2,219 comprising 1,100 males and 1109 females.

IDB loan goes to aluminium firm

AMMAN (Petra) — Industrial Development Bank (IDB) Technical Aid Fund for Industrial Projects has granted a loan of JD 65,000 to the Arab Company for the manufacture of Aluminium to be repaid over seven years. The loan will be used towards paying for foreign technical expertise in service at the company's factory.

Bourdais: Exciting, original and stimulating approach to art

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A flood of exhibitions opened in Amman this week and all are worth a visit. If however time only permits the taking in of one of these, then the exhibition to see is that of Jean Claud Bourdais at the French Cultural Centre. The reason why Bourdais' collection of paintings, poetry and photographs is especially enjoyable lies in his approach to his art which is exciting, original and stimulating.

A man of wide interests with an eye for the strange and curious, Bourdais has, despite no formal training in art, created his own images of the world since the age of 15. Four years ago he held his first exhibition and since then his work — especially the pieces compiled of polaroid snap shots — has created quite a stir wherever it has been seen.

"People are always surprised that I manage to achieve such good photographs with an ordinary SX-70 polaroid camera," says Bourdais, "but if you know how to use one, you can get sharp definition and true colours. Indeed, contrary to popular opinion, the prints seem to last a long time — some of the photographs on exhibition now are three to four years old."

However it is not just the quality of his prints that is intriguing, it is what Bourdais does with them. After taking many shots of the same object or objects from different angles and nearly always in close up Bourdais then arranges the results in a neat grid; the white borders of the print serving both to individualise and unify. Taken as a whole these pieces form rare and unusual abstract designs. Studied separately the photographs with their strange subject matter — the dead animals lying among the refuse washed up on the beach, the squashed and rusty cans ("Even rubbish can be beautiful if you look at it objectively," says Bourdais) the little mounds of salt, the trees growing on the beach and their echo in the drips of paint on the boat sides, the discarded clothes whose naturally formed shapes and colours make, eye-catching abstract designs — are thought provoking and fascinating.

Equally fascinating is Bourdais' poetry. His first volume "Le Temps S'Empierre" published in 1983, is very much like any other book on modern poetry except there is one radical difference — most of the poems have been obliterated by drawings in black china ink. In this way Bourdais reduces his work down to a very few words which he feels convey the essence of the poem, his second volume, due out next month, is, if anything, even stranger. Inspired by the writings he had seen on a wall in an old abandoned psychiatric hospital in Senegal, Bourdais began writing on a wall of his own, putting himself in the place of the old inmate, trying to imagine what went on inside his head. Bourdais then broke his wall down so that it lay in ruins like the original and his book, "Le Mur De Fou", consists of photographs of these pieces mosaicked together in a random fashion.

ART REVIEW

Finally there is Bourdais' abstract work — fluid fast moving compositions built up in layers of paint through which dynamic lines of black china ink snake. Spontaneous free and vital many of them — like the smoky grey tryptic — work well.

Good abstract work

Good abstract work also comes from Saleh Abu Shindi whose exhibition can be seen at the Alia Art Gallery until February 28. The main bulk of Abu Shindi's work however is figurative — sensuously rounded limbs and bodies encased in gently flowing robes that weave in and out of their individual forms linking them in an eternity of curves. Executed in pastels, the colours are subdued and harmonious — the bliges bleeding with the ochres and pale greens, each colour toning with the next, each painting with its neighbour. The work of Abu Shindi, who is a lecturer at Yarmouk University is reasonably priced and selling well.

Memorable images

At the Goethe Institute, meanwhile, is a photographic exhibition by Austrian journalist Wolfgang Tielisch. Although based in Damascus where he is a member of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), Tielisch has managed to travel extensively in the Middle East catching many memorable images along the way. Initially Tielisch, who is not professional photographer, had no intention of exhibiting his work, especially as he took his photographs with rather poor equipment. However when the Kodak people in Austria saw his photographs, they asked Tielisch if they could make something out of them. So, with Kodak sponsoring the processing, Tielisch held his first photographic exhibition in Austria.

Afterwards, realising it would be a nice idea to show the pictures to the people who had made them possible, Tielisch approached the Goethe Institutes in Damascus and Amman, both of whose directors enthusiastically accepted his proposal.

Some of Tielisch's photographs are quite stunning — like the wonderful portraits of the old men and children, like the unique pictures of rain clouds over Wadi Rum, the sunrises over the Dead Sea, the eerie emptiness of the Sinai desert, the columns at Palmyra glowing in the last orange rays of the setting sun.

This latter picture is rather unusual as Tielisch prefers to shoot people and unfamiliar landscapes rather than famous monuments. "But," he admits "you have to make concessions. You have to include the culture that has existed in this area, especially when you can photograph it under such extreme light conditions."

It is this remarkable intensity of light that Tielisch attributes much of his success. "I never produced anything photographically exceptional until I came to this area as it was only then that I learned to see. I love the open landscape, the wilderness for it gives me a feeling of absolute freedom, of adventure and I love the balanced way of life that exists here. I think in this landscape, especially along the Rift Valley, there is a tremendous amount of aesthetics and this is what I am trying to express." The exhibition runs until March 1.

Turkish Festival

Finally at the San Rock Hotel until March 1 is a Turkish Festival, the highlight of which is a marvellous display of the most beautiful hand made Turkish carpets.



One of the photographs in the exhibition by Austrian journalist Wolfgang Tielisch currently on show at the Goethe Institute (J.T. file photo)

It is an exhibition alive with the sumptuous sheen of pure silk, with the glint of gold brocade, with the rugged glow of wool. Picked out in deep magentas, indigo blues, creams and yellows are rich patterns of intertwining carnations, tulips and roses through which wander lions, deer and bears.

Many of these dazzling works of art, which are all for sale, come from the most famous carpet centre in Turkey, Hereke. In this small town which lies some 60 kilometres east of Istanbul pure silk carpets of unrivalled wealth and quality are made and with a million double knots per square metre they represent a supreme achievement in contemporary carpet weaving. Other rugs come from Kayseri, the capital of Cappadocia situated in Central Anatolia, where the thousands of looms (there is an estimated 200,000) looms in use all over Turkey) are an important source of income for the town itself and nearby villages.

Also on display are some very fine pieces of hand-made copper and silver, a small selection of photographs by Osman Akuz, and an exhibition of the oil paintings by Sabahat Rashdan. Video films about Turkey are being shown daily at 4 p.m. and every evening Turkish folklore dancers and singers will perform. There will also be a slide show about Touristic Turkey by art historian Ugur Ayyildiz on Thursday March 1 at 5 p.m.

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| 3. | AUSTRALIA | 61 | CANBERRA | 62 |
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| 6. | CANADA | 1 | OTTAWA | No Area Codes |
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| 8. | DENMARK | 45 | COPENHAGEN | 1 |
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| 10. | NETHERLAND | 31 | AMSTERDAM | 20 |
| 11. | NIGERIA | 234 | LAGOS | 1 |
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TCC Director General
Mohammad Shahid Ismail

By Franz Schumann

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Culture makes the difference

SAN FRANCISCO — Looking at the struggles in the Middle East, they at first seem political. They have to do with who controls governments or parties. Yet only a little bit beneath the surface, it becomes clear that there is also cultural struggle. And while they too are complex like the political ones, there is a common dividing line: those who are drawn into "the great world culture of the West" on one side and those who live in a different, traditional, religious culture. There is no political struggle between Islam and the West, but there is a cultural struggle. And nowhere in the world has the culture of the West met such opposition as in the Islamic World. Almost everywhere else, there has been merging, mixing, accommodation.

The culture of the West has reached its highest point in the U.S. And it is American culture that is sweeping over the world. People hear it every day from the music of radios and TV; they see it every day on video and movie screens. But this is not the essence of American culture. Music is just a surface manifestation. Cultures are ways of life, and the basic aspects of culture are relationships among people. And once it is so important as the relationships between men and women. It is precisely in the profound way traditional cultures differ from the modern Western, American culture that we see the seedbeds of struggle.

Anyone who has lived in the West and especially the U.S. can see the enormous changes that have taken place in man-woman relationships. Everywhere women are coming into the workforce. They are holding ever higher positions. They serve in armies. They are coming to head banks, corporations. And if they are not at the top, they are everywhere at second and third level positions.

One sees these new women on every street. They are not dressed as men. They dress stylishly as women. But appearances should not mislead. They are strong, capable, intelligent. They can be seen in laboratories. They flow into space. They more and more assume responsibility. In the U.S., they have long owned more money than men. Now, gradually, they are gaining power to match their money.

Men, by contrast, have grown weaker in Western culture. They are often softer. They fear women. Far too many become homosexuals. They have been told that they must give up their traditional male aggressiveness and become gentle. Many have. There is a mildness about American men that is in such contrast to what men were like when I was a child.

The greatest mark of the American culture is its "tolerance"—anybody can do anything so long as he does not hurt anyone else. But at the same time there is no common faith, no sense of the future, no God. That culture has been called "secular humanism" by its enemies who are mostly on the American political rightwing. Because there is no common faith, there is a declining strength. And because strength is declining, there is greater and greater reliance on technology... and on women.



Nabih Berri

Schools still closed

West Beirut still is nervous. Schools, restaurants and the airport remain closed. Many Christians who left their apartments for East Beirut have not yet returned.

Beirut's southern suburbs, he says he appealed to American diplomats to stop Mr. Gemayel. When that failed, he ordered his 10,000-man militia to take west Beirut.

These attacks were a crime against humanity, and have left 170,000 of our people homeless," he says. Hence, Mr. Berri's first demand is that Mr. Gemayel apologise to the suburbs' residents and offer them help to rebuild.

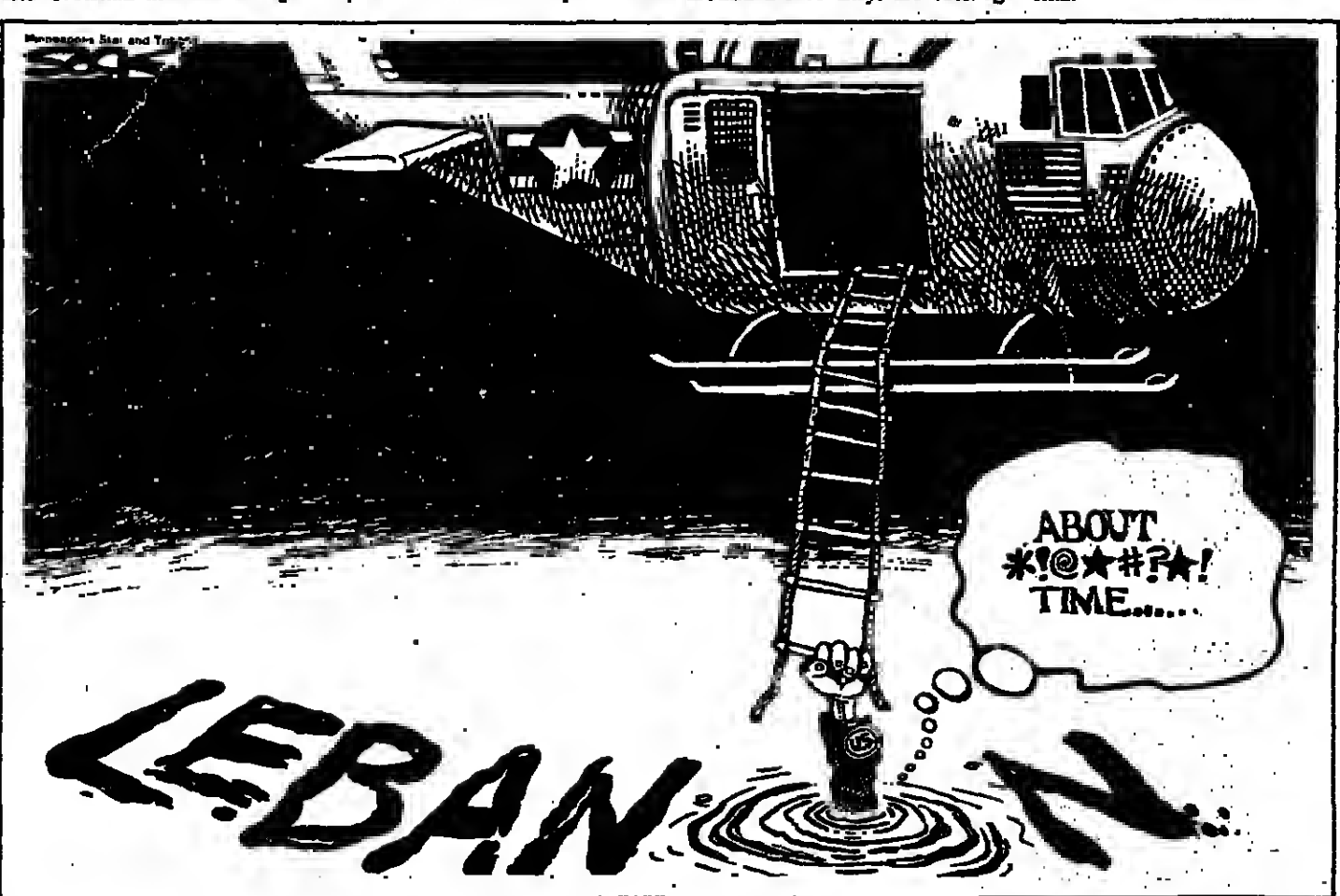
After that, he wants a more equitable sharing of political power and national wealth between Christians, who number about a third of the population, and Muslims, who number two-thirds. The frustration of the Shi'ites builds with each week they are refused a bigger piece of Lebanon's political and economic pie.

Preserving institutions

"You have heard of the movie 'Tea and Sympathy'?" asks Col. Akel Halder, who resigned from the Lebanese army in 1975 and now is president of Amal's political bureau. "Let the government offer us sympathy, and then we want some tea."

Despite the government's refusal to speak with him, Mr. Berri continues to act to preserve government institutions and the army in West Beirut.

While other government opponents demand Mr. Gemayel's resignation, he merely asks that parliament shorten the president's



Amal's Berri — a balancing Lebanese force

By Frederick Kempe

BEIRUT — When word reached Lebanese Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri that Muslim extremists had kidnapped a Kuwaiti diplomat's twin sons, he angrily ordered his security forces to take action.

Within hours, they had hunted down their fellow Shi'ites and delivered a terse note: "You have two hours to release your two hostages unharmed. If you do so, you will remain untouched. If you don't, we will not be responsible for what will happen to you and your group."

The boys were freed. Mr. Berri's threats are seldom ignored these days. As President Amin Gemayel's stature erodes, Mr. Berri's power and influence grows. The French-educated, 45-year-old lawyer has harnessed the strength of Lebanon's largest and poorest community through Amal, the mainstream Shi'ite organisation he leads.

His call to Shi'ites to lay down their arms neutralised the American-trained Lebanese Army. He led an offensive with Sunni and Druze allies that captured West Beirut within 24 hours and exposed the impotence of Mr. Gemayel's government. He then quickly restored order and removed militia from the streets to calm widespread fears that a Muslim fundamentalist take-over had begun.

Recently, Mr. Berri and his allies scored another victory when Mr. Gemayel abrogated the May 17 troop-withdrawal treaty with Israel. The Muslim opposition had rejected the treaty because it gave Israel a role in policing southern Lebanon.

More and more, Mr. Berri emerges as the key to any conceivable political settlement in Lebanon. "I think he surprised a lot of people in the past few days," says a U.S. military source. "He really had his act together."

In fact, it may now be in the U.S. interest to see Mr. Berri consolidate his power, even at Mr. Gemayel's expense, a West European diplomat here says. He argues that Mr. Berri is the only opposition leader who still enjoys a large degree of independence from Syria. Moreover, if Mr. Berri's relatively moderate policies fail, the diplomat fears a lurch by Lebanon's restive Shi'ite community towards Iran-style extremism.

Children in Detroit

Mr. Berri is a handsome, fist-pounding politician who moves and talks with restless urgency. Ironically, the man most responsible for the collapse of U.S. policy here carries an American residence permit and has a former wife and six children in Detroit.

Violence overshadows campaign for Basque elections

By Susan Linzee
Associated Press

VICTORIA, Spain — Peace is the slogan of the political parties vying for seats in the Feb. 26 parliamentary elections here. But violence in both the Spanish and French parts of the troubled Basque country has kicked off the campaign.

Autonomous regions established since the return to representative government seven years ago, the three-province northern Basque country enjoys the greatest degree of autonomy. But many Basques think the provisions of their autonomy statute aren't being carried out quickly enough.

The elections mark the second time voters in the provinces of Alava, Vizcaya and Guipuzcoa chose a parliament following their acceptance of a home rule charter four years after the death in 1975 of dictator Gen. Francisco Franco. After the Spanish Civil War in 1939, a victorious Franco imposed harsh sanctions on the autonomous region, including suppression of the Basque language, Euskara.

Spain's ruling Socialist Party hopes to convince voters here that it can end the killings that have taken more than 50 lives since ETA first appeared in 1968 to oppose Gen. Franco and fight for Basque independence.

Polis indicate, however, that the ruling Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) is expected to win at least 38 of the 75 seats in the parliament, which was expanded by 15 seats since the March 1980 elections.

With a 59 per cent turnout of the estimated 1.5 million voters in 1980, Deputies from Herri Batasuna (the presumed parliamentary arm of ETA) never took their seats.

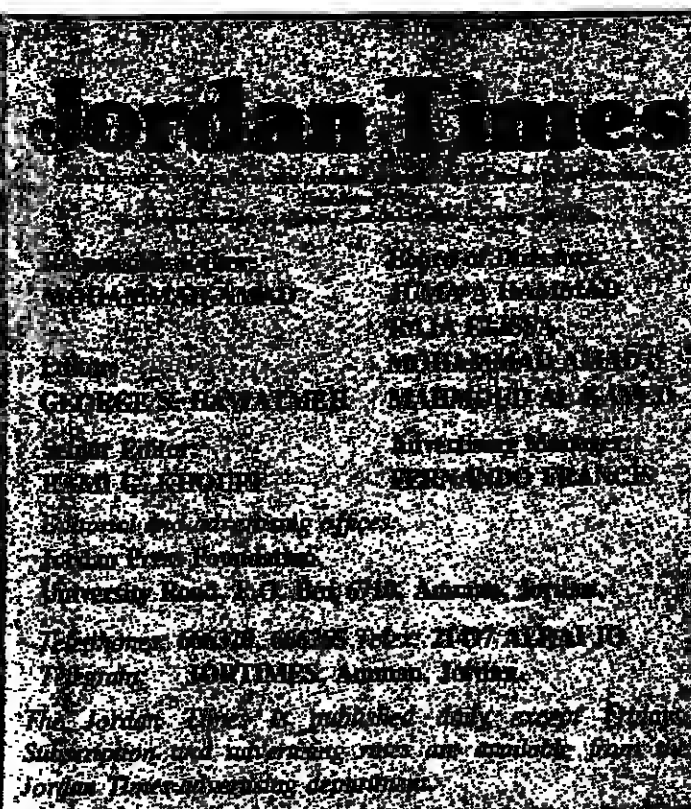
Besides Herri Batasuna (People's Union in Basque) other parties running in the elections include Euzkadi Ezkerra (Basque Left), the Conservative Popular

Alliance Party and the Spanish Communist Party. The latter two parties are not expected to win more than half a dozen seats between them.

The current wave of killings began last Dec. 19 when GAL claimed responsibility for shooting a presumed "Etarra" (member of ETA) living in exile in Bayonne, France. GAL also said it shot and killed another presumed Etarra Dec. 28 in Saint Jean de Luz in the French Basque country.

GAL communicates have stated that the organisation would kill two ETA activities for each person killed by the Basque separatist organisation.

On Jan. 29 ETA claimed responsibility for the gunning down of a Madrid street of a high-ranking Spanish general. On Feb. 4, two presumed members of an



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

For Friday

Al Ra'i: Long-standing practices

JORDAN'S DECISION to sever relations with Libya was not solely due to Libya's burning of the Jordanian embassy in Tripoli. The decision came as a result of consistent Libyan ill practices against Jordan, its media campaigns against Jordan's government and people and its continued attempts to interfere with Jordanian internal affairs.

The prime minister's statement to parliament on Wednesday pointed out all the facts and placed everything in its proper perspective. He said that Jordan was very patient over the years with Libya's ill behaviour and irresponsible actions, and was hoping that these practices will end before they could endanger Arab solidarity. But unfortunately it was found that Libya was persisting in its policies against Jordan and was determined to exacerbate differences with Jordan.

In the embassy incident, Libya tried to involve Palestinian groups in the hope that this would harm Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

The burning of the embassy was the final act of a long series of hostile actions against Jordan forcing it to have no other alternative but to sever all relations with the Libyan regime.

Al Dustour: A public demand

BY SEVERING relations with Libya, the government was merely responding in public demand and expressing the Jordanian people's disgust and dismay at the Libyan regime's practices against this country and its people.

The government's decision reflected the Jordanian people's condemnation of Libya's actions and continued campaigns against their king and government.

The Libyan regime's disrespect of all international laws and norms, its disregard for brotherly ties and its open hostility towards Jordan forced us to take this step. The burning of the embassy in Tripoli was the last straw that forced Jordan to take this sad step.

Jordan regrets that it took such a step in put an end to Libya's malicious actions, not only against this country but also against other Arab states. We hope that Qadhafi will be brought back to his senses one day and change the circumstances that had brought about the end of diplomatic relations between Libya and Jordan.

Sawt Al Shaab: Organised terrorism

A REGIME which does not respect itself and continues to cooperate against other countries should be boycotted by all states. A country that carries out organised terrorist activities against another and harbours criminals and recruits terrorists should be condemned by world nations at large. No nation on earth can tolerate the actions of the Libyan regime, its ill practices and conspiracies against Arab states.

The Libyan regime had shirked all its national commitments and responsibilities towards the Arab countries. It has conspired against the governments of Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan and Jordan, and also against the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Libyan regime conspired with Iraq against Iraq and sent to the Iraqis weapons to kill Arab brothers in Iraq. Why should Jordan or other Arab states tolerate Libya's actions and crimes against the nation?

The Libyan regime does not only condone terrorism but also adopts it as an official policy. Jordan will not be honoured or respected while associating itself with such a regime or by maintaining ties with it.

For Thursday

Al Ra'i: Iran should learn

THE DECISIVE battle against Iraq, about which the Iranian regime has talked too much, has failed. The Iranian regime has learnt a new lesson emphasising the futility of the fierce war it is waging against Iraq, and that Iraqi land is inviolable.

Thus the Tehran regime is unable to relinquish its huge responsibility for the great losses it has inflicted on the Iranian economy, particularly after it has sent thousands of Iranian victims to the fire.

It should be recalled that the rulers of Iraq have repeatedly ignored all offers by Iraq to establish a just and honourable peace between the two countries and abandoned all international and Islamic mediation efforts in establishing such a peace. They preferred to continue this useless war as well, and thus brought disasters upon the Iranian people.

The rulers of Tehran are mistaken if they think that continuation of the war will enable them to strengthen their grip on the Iranian people or will give them the opportunity to predominate the Gulf area. Time has come for them to realise that the people they have subjected to disasters will retaliate and will say their word.

However, nobody expects that the Iranian regime will learn from the lessons it has been dealt. On the contrary, it is expected that the Iranian regime will wage new suicidal attacks on Iraq. Therefore, Arabs should extend every possible support in Iraq for enabling it to finish the Iranian regime relinquish the useless war and accept a just peace, based on mutual respect between the two countries.

The victory Iraq achieved Thursday does not mean that Iraq is not willing to establish just peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. fails in Lebanon

FOLLOWING THE failure of the task entrusted to the Multi-National Force (MNF) in Lebanon and the diversity in the stands of Washington and its European partners in the MNF vis-a-vis the Lebanese crisis and methods of solving it, it has become evident that Washington has manipulated European participation as a cover to implement its direct military intervention in Lebanon affairs, and to replace the Israeli force which had withdrawn from Beirut, in order to ensure the implementation of American policy and protect the gains Israel had achieved through its invasion of Lebanon.

Withdrawal of the American force from Beirut to the sea and its failure to achieve any of its objectives on Lebanese soil does not only arouse disputes between America and its European partners, but also arouses differences between Washington and Tel Aviv over the developments of the Lebanese crisis.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz considers Israel's abrupt withdrawal from the Shouf Mountains as a premeditated blow leading to deterioration of the American position in Lebanon. Israel, through aggravating the conflict between Druze and Christians in the Shouf Mountains is contributing to the escalation of armament in that area under its supervision, thus acting contrary to American policy which cared to de-escalate tension in the Shouf area. While the U.S. meant to help the Lebanese government, Israel worked for achieving the ultimate goal of its attack on Lebanon.

But the results came contrary to the goals of America and Israel, as deterioration of the security conditions in the Shouf mountain led at the end to the deterioration of the Lebanese government and the weakening of the American stand. The mounting armed resistance in the South also led to complicating the Israeli position in the South; and reconsideration of the Israeli existence in the South became inevitable.

Therefore, Israel as cowardly looking for local collaborators to South Lebanon to use them as a protective cover, thus minimising its loads and hoping this would help the continuation of its predominance in the region.

One should not forget that Israel, by invading Lebanon and its rejection of remedying the invasion crisis at the United Nations (U.N.) had killed the U.N. mission task in Lebanon. It has also, in co-operation with Washington, precluded U.N. participation in finding a solution in the Lebanese crisis. This makes the return to the U.N. now mean nothing but serving American interests in Lebanon.

The only strong force which can change the course of matters and achieve stability in Lebanon lies in the strong will of the Lebanese people and their realisation that armed conflict destroys prospects of peace.

Are Jordanians being educated politically?



Talking straight
Marwan Muasher

THERE HAVE been many conclusions drawn already from the restoration of parliamentary life in Jordan, as well as the appointment of a new government. Each has detected what appeared most to his or her thinking, and overlooked what he/she did not want to see. To me, I choose to believe that one of the outstanding differences that I have detected, and rejoiced for, between the new and old governments is the appointment of Mrs. Laila Sharaf as Minister of Information. My reasons for rejoicing are threefold. First, Mrs. Sharaf has quickly built a reputation over the last few years as a defender of personal rights, a believer in true representation, and a competent person. Second, the position she holds now is a very sensitive one in Jordanian politics. Her energetic person and open views will therefore no doubt leave a positive mark on the Jordanian society. Third, it is only fitting that this important position is awarded to a woman, who is one of the best qualified to occupy it regardless of

sex, and who represents a sector of our society that is at a disadvantage, and in dire need for such a voice to bring attention to its rights, grievances, and abilities.

I do not know Mrs. Sharaf personally. However, her frequent interviews in the press before her appointment as minister made me sense she has something different and special to contribute. I am not writing today, however, to pay lip service to our new minister. True, I write today as a friend, a sympathiser who shares many of Mrs. Sharaf's beliefs and ideals. I also write as a citizen, who still has a lot of unanswered questions in his mind, and as a journalist, who is ever concerned with the right to voice his opinion freely.

I was prompted to write this article by Mrs. Sharaf's statements which appeared in the course of an interview with the Jordan Times (Sunday, Jan. 29, 1984) in which the minister touched upon many important issues of great concern to the Jordanian citizen.

The minister pointed out, quite correctly I think, that "democratic life requires much more than restoring parliamentary life". Democracy, she added, "should start at schools and basic educational institutions...". She was of the belief that Jordanians are not yet ready for full democracy, and that such a feat requires time. I could not agree more with what she said. But I also cannot help but ask the following questions. Thirty years ago, we were not ready for democracy. Today, we are told, and truly so, we are not ready for democracy. Unless something serious is done about it, our government in 2014 might also tell us, and truly so, that we are not ready for democracy. In other words, democracy is no doubt an evolutionary process, but is it not, at least partly so, the duty of those in government now, of the educated now, of the elite of our society now, to make sure that a democratic system does start at schools now so that 30 years from now we will be ready for democracy? And if we assume that the government

does have a responsibility in this regard, is it fair to ask what steps are being taken in this direction? Is not the education system as well as policy dictated by the government? Are there plans to modify that system, not only in the kind of information given, but also in the way it is given such that students are encouraged to express their views independently as well as respect other views? Is the government encouraging public clubs, where matters are discussed "with an absolute freedom of thought"?

Full democracy could very well spell disaster for Jordan now, but what we as laymen are hoping for is for people like Mrs. Sharaf, who are conscientious and in a position of power, to initiate such programmes. Democracy, in an atmosphere that is conducive to the pursuit, if not full attainment, of ideals such as free dialogue, can no doubt be accelerated, and Jordanians brought to be politically mature in a shorter period of time than otherwise.

The current Jordanian Journalists law, empowering the government to revoke the licence of any newspaper without giving reasons, is a case in point. As a citizen, and a journalist, I cannot but be disturbed by the implications of such a law. If there is to be "mutual respect for each other's opinion", then why cannot a journalist voice his opinion freely? And who is to decide when a journalist behaves "irresponsibly" in the absence of any laws defining this irresponsibility? To put forth a question to Mrs. Sharaf, can we expect in the future that if the government thinks the press has behaved "irresponsibly", that the matter be settled in court, where each side has a chance of presenting their case?

While on the subject of parliamentary life and democracy, I would like to make another point, even though it does not deal directly with the minister's statements. It is kind of a sobering thought that the return to parliamentary life came as a necessary

action to avoid more deterioration in the political institutions. Many have pointed out that due to the old age of the deputies, the re-convening of the parliament assured a quorum for amending the constitution that might not be there few years down the line. I would like to think more along the lines that the restoration of parliamentary life was meant as a positive step to allow people a larger share in governing themselves rather than due to some technicalities. I will not complain, however. The fact that we do have a parliament, one that is a long way from being perfect, but one nevertheless, is a positive sign.

We have not been accustomed to such frankness as disclosed by the new minister. We hope, therefore, that we can be equally frank in presenting our points of view. Jordan is no doubt "threatened by external dangers". But it is equally true that Jordan also has a lot of citizens who want to contribute and are contributing diligently to its growth. I hope

that where differences of opinion occur, such citizens are not labelled "irresponsible", that there is room for different ideas.

I hope one of the functions of this and all next governments is to embark upon a programme that has as its aim the political education of people so that one day we can no longer say we are not ready for democracy. I forward these thoughts to the new minister, who I believe has an open mind to different ideas, and who, many believe, brought new energy to her job by her "individual style".

Few months ago, I wrote an article about possible election issues in Jordan, in which I wondered how many men are receptive to the idea of a woman representing them. Little did I know that within the minister of information being in charge of all the media in Jordan, a woman would become technically, if indirectly, my boss. How does this particular man feel about it? Mightily proud.

Campaign for European Parliament shaping up

By Jeffrey Ulbrich
Associated Press

PARIS — The campaign for seats in the European Parliament is shaping up in France, where it promises to focus more on French international politics than the Common Market.

The rightist and centrist opposition has served notice that the June 17 voting in France will be a clear referendum on the performance of Socialist President Francois Mitterrand's government since it came to power in the spring of 1981.

The elections, being held June 15 in Britain and the Netherlands and June 17 in the eight other Common Market countries, are to select 434 members to the European Parliament in Strasbourg for a five-year term. The first European elections were held in June 1979.

The parliament's main power is the right to veto the annual Common Market budget, a step it has taken only once. It also has the power to sack the European Commission, the organisation's executive body, but has never even threatened to do so. Common Market law also requires that the parliament give an advisory opinion on all legislation, advice that can be ignored.

But in France, much more is at stake than the 81 seats in Strasbourg. The election is seen not only as a test of strength between the right and left, but also as a launching pad for France's next parliamentary elections in 1986.

and even the presidential contest scheduled for 1988.

With Mr. Mitterrand's government continuing to sag in the opinion polls and its Communist partners voicing increasing criticism, the conservatives are confident of victory.

According to Jacques Chirac, president of the Neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic Party (RPR) and a main opposition leader, a victory would show that the right "is capable of being united and as a consequence, together, capable of directing the affairs of our country tomorrow."

The conservative RPR and the centrists of the Union for French Democracy (UDF) have agreed to a single list of candidates headed by Simone Veil, a former president of the European Parliament and probably the most popular woman in France.

Although polls show that the RPR and UDF probably would win more votes if they ran separate tickets, most of their leaders agreed it was more important to make a show of unity. The UDF is itself a grouping of five small centrist parties.

On the left, the socialist list will be headed by the party's first secretary, Lionel Jospin, and the Communists will be led by Secretary-General Georges Marchais.

Though no decisions have yet been announced, it is probable that other leftist parties such as the Radical Left Movement and the Unified Socialist Party will run separate lists along with other minor groups such as the eco-



logists and the extreme right.

The opposition's three main leaders, Mr. Chirac, former president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, and former Premier Raymond Barre, will no doubt play a strong role in the campaign, but the fight will be led by Mrs. Veil, a politician who adheres to the UDF but belongs to no political party.

Mr. Jospin has admitted that as the government struggles with persistent high unemployment, an economy that has not matched the recovery in the rest of the West

and hard decisions on industrial restructuring, the outlook for the left is not good.

For the Communists, Mr. Marchais will be trying to put his party on the comeback road. Since the 20.5 per cent of the vote they achieved in the 1979 European elections, their support eroded to 15.3 per cent in the 1981 presidential elections and a loss of half their seats in parliament.

In the last European elections, the UDF list headed by Mrs. Veil

won 26 seats in Strasbourg; the Socialists, led by Mr. Mitterrand, won 21 seats; Mr. Marchais' Communists won 19 and the RPR, led by Mr. Chirac, won 15. That gave the left a majority of one for the 81 seats.

This time, the right expects to do much better.

With an eye to 1986 and 1988, Mr. Chirac said in a radio interview: "The political history of our country will not end the evening of June 17."

Systematic Israeli suppression of Palestinian expression

A SURVEY detailing Israeli censorship of Arab publications in Israel and the occupied territories is now available from the New York-based Fund for Free Expression. Directed by former deputy mayor of Jerusalem Meron Benvenisti, "Israeli Censorship of Arab Publications: A Survey", exposes not only the systematic repression of Palestinian self-expression, but also the precarious nature of freedom of the press in Israel as a whole.

According to this report, the lively political role played by the Jewish news media in Israel has obscured its "precarious constitutional position." Israel has no written constitution, and a proposed basic law on civil rights has never been passed, so that Israeli citizens lack any formal legal guarantee of freedom of expression.

Indeed, Israeli laws include many repressive regulations guiding press conduct.

The Benvenisti survey attributes this fact — somewhat surprising in a self-proclaimed "democracy" — to the Eastern European political heritage shared by many early immigrants to Israel. In Eastern Europe, "formal aspects of majority rule and free elections" have historically been more important than "the liberal aspects of civil liberties and minority rights" enshrined in Western democracies.

Several important restrictive laws date from before the establishment of Israel. The Press Ordinance of 1933, for example,

which was enacted by the British after Arab-Jewish riots in 1929, was incorporated into Israeli law in 1948. This requires governmental licensing, supervision, and regulation of printed media. The Emergency Defence Regulations issued by the British in 1945 also remain in force, authorising the government to prohibit the publication of any material "prejudicial to the defence of the state or to the public safety or public order." By this law, publishers can be required to submit for inspection any piece of writing intended for printing.

For the Jewish media in Israel, the repressive legal system is largely irrelevant, since press-government relations have historically been based on "gentlemen's agreements" which circumvent the laws. But the Arab media suffers daily from censorship based on these laws. All Arab publications appear in Jerusalem, because the press laws in Israel, "although severe, are preferable to the draconian limitations on freedom of expression posed by the Military Government in the West Bank."

The survey states: Access to Arab publications, based in Jerusalem, is much more difficult in the occupied territories, where restrictions on entry of publications are imposed by the military government.

Arab newspapers must submit all material meant for publication to the Israeli censor each day. The censor may suppress a whole item

or part of it, and a paper is not permitted to give its readers any indication that an item has been censored. Arab journalists and editors have been arrested or deported for minor offences, and several have been kept under house arrest for long periods of time. Newspapers may be — and have often been — closed without notice, and they must obtain permits (which are frequently revoked) in order to be distributed in the West Bank. Bank censorship is also common, and includes any work that expresses Palestinian "national feelings" or might arouse them. At one point even George Orwell's 1984 was banned on the West Bank.

The Benvenisti report is sobering, as it documents case after case of arbitrary and oppressive Israeli censorship of Arab publications. But the report also notes that Israeli authorities are fighting a losing battle. The flow of information to the West Bank, for example, has been greatly stimulated by the proliferation of radio and TV broadcasts from Arab countries available to residents. Native Palestinian "intellectual and scholarly centres like Birzeit University also contribute to the spread of information. In addition, the high degree of political mobilisation and commitment of Palestinian journalists ensures that the struggle between censor and censored will continue for the foreseeable future. — Focus, Washington.

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Grand Prix backers withdraw sponsorship

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A South African hotel chain Friday announced it had withdrawn its million rand (\$830,000) sponsorship of the Kyalami Grand Prix, the second race on this year's Formula One motor racing calendar.

But race track owner Bobby Hartisief said afterwards he would

have no problem finding another sponsor and expected the race to go ahead as planned on April 7.

Southern Sun Hotel Corporation, which sponsored last year's race, said they had withdrawn because of government changes in tax concessions.

Marketing manager Jurgen

Burmeister said under new tax regulations Southern Sun would receive a 46.2 per cent tax rebate on its million rand outlay instead of 92.4 per cent as had been the case last year.

"That's a lot of money. I expect other firms involved in such sponsorship will also be reconsidering their situation," said Burmeister.

France leads India in Davis Cup

NEW DELHI (R) — France built up a 2-0 lead in the opening singles of their world group first round Davis Cup tennis tie against India Friday, but rising French star Henri Leconte had to struggle to pull off his expected victory.

Yannick Noah, ranked fifth in the world, notched up an easy 6-2, 7-5, 6-2 win against Ramesh Krishnan, who was still recovering from a fever earlier in the week.

But Leconte, giving away double faults as though winning serves had suddenly gone out of fashion, lost his first set against Anand Amritraj and only managed to crawl to a 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 8-6 win after a string of errors mellowed by an occasional ace.

Leconte, 21, said he was affected by a gusty cross-court wind, but made no attempt to soften his second serve. He fired a total of 23 double faults, including four in one game, bringing roars of ap-

proval from the Indian crowd.

At one point he threw his racket on the ground in disgust as the string of double faults reached epidemic proportions.

Afterwards Leconte, who was losing finalist to Jimmy Connors in this month's Memphis Grand Prix tournament, shrugged off his erratic play. "I always thought I would win, but in the Davis Cup you can get surprises."

Non-playing French captain Jean-Paul Loth said he was not worried by Leconte's performance and would probably play him and Noah in Saturday's doubles match.

"It was a windy day and that was

carrying the ball," he told reporters. "But he was getting in aces as well. The time you have to worry is when there are no aces."

The 23-year-old French champion said he had expected to win Friday morning's match. "I am number five in the world and Ramesh is around 70, so that's the way it should be," he said. "I am the better player."

Two of the Indian side are suffering from injury or sickness.

India's hopes of holding off a French victory were torpedoed when captain Vijay Amritraj was forced to opt out Thursday because of a sore shoulder, while Krishnan said after Friday's match he was still feeling below par because of antibiotics he was taking earlier in the week.

In Perth, Australia, a big-hitting young Yugoslav shattered expectations of an easy victory for Davis Cup holders Australia in the first round tie.

Slobodan Zivojinovic, 20, fully tested the more experienced Paul McNamee, who took nearly four hours to win the opening singles 9-7, 4-6, 9-7, 10-8.

John Fitzgerald then defeated Marko Ostojic 2-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-2 in the second singles to give Australia a 2-0 lead.

"I was struggling, I admit," a weary and relieved McNamee confessed after his marathon match.

The solidly-built Zivojinovic, lacking recent tournament experience and unfamiliar with the grass surface, produced an erratic but powerful game which kept McNamee under pressure throughout the match.

McNamee led 5-2 in the first set before Zivojinovic settled down and began to score with his booming service and some superb backhand passing shots.

West Bromwich faces more problems in English League

LONDON (R) — West Bromwich Albion, hoping to shrug off last week's dismal display against third division Plymouth in the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup, face more problems.

New manager Johnny Giles has had to put teenage defender Wayne Ewbankson on stand-by for Saturday's first division game at home to Coventry.

Full-back Clive Whitehead is doubtful with a shoulder injury after falling heavily in practice and faces a fitness test Saturday.

Nicky Cross is also added to the side beaten by Plymouth and could replace Micky Perry in attack.

Striker Cyril Regis and Midfielder Gary Owen are still out with injury and West Brom will do well to hold a side who have one of the best away records in the division.

Manchester United's England midfielder Ray Wilkins has recovered from a groin strain and

plays in the home match with Sunderland.

United manager Ron Atkinson will stage a late fitness test for Northern Ireland World Cup striker Norman Whiteside, who has been suffering from a hamstring injury.

Nottingham Forest, second in the division just one point ahead of Manchester United, are at home to Arsenal, who will be able to field former Forest player Tony Woodcock.

Like his England team-mate Wilkins, Woodcock has also recovered from a groin injury.

Forest, who are unbeaten in the League since losing 1-0 to Liverpool on New Year's eve, field an unchanged team.

Nottingham City, stuck by the side who got a goalless draw in midweek at Tottenham for their relegation battle at Stoke, Northern Ireland International Martin O'Neill has still not recovered from a hamstring injury.

Tunisian downs Puerto Rican

MILAN, Italy (R) — Tunisian lightweight Kamal Bouali stopped Puerto Rican Roberto Pineiro in the sixth round of a scheduled 10-round bout here Thursday night.

The end came 27 seconds into

the round when the 23-year-old Pineiro, ranked 10th by the World Boxing Association (WBA), was felled by a flurry of blows from the speedy Tunisian.

The referee immediately stepped in to halt the bout.

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| Performances: 3-6 - 8:30 | Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8 | Performances: 3:30-6 - 8:30 | Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8 | Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8 | Performances: 12-3-7 | Performances: 12-3-5-8-8 | |

Arab agriculture firm to start business soon

BAHRAIN (R) — A billion dollar company set up with the aim of reducing Arab dependence on imported food is expected to begin operations in the third quarter of this year, the company's chairman said Thursday.

Sheikh Saleh Abdullah Kamel said the start of operations of the Bahrain-based Arab Agriculture Investment Company would follow a public share offering in April.

He told a news conference the company had decided to extend a deadline for applications from founder members until the end of March.

It would increase the proportion of shares to be offered to founders to 50 per cent from the 20 per cent originally planned and cut the price of one share to \$10 from \$100.

A quarter of the company's authorised capital \$1 billion had already been paid in, he said.

The changes were made to create a broader base, boost public confidence in the institution and give applicants time to clear currency transactions, Sheikh Saleh said.

"The company will have Arab national interests at heart but it will not be some sort of philanthropic organisation... It will invest only in economically viable projects," he said.

Sheikh Saleh said the company's establishment marked a shift by Arab investors away from speculative ventures to areas requiring long-term investment with a "normal return."

Meanwhile, a new investment institution aimed at helping banks invest funds in accordance with Islamic principles prohibiting usury is expected to begin operations next month, Sheikh Saleh said.

The Al Baraka Islamic Investment Bank would help Islamic banks manage cash surpluses and shortfalls by permitting them to trade freely in the new bank's shares.

United States, Japan clash over financial liberalisation measures

TOKYO (R) — The United States Friday gave Japan a month to come up with a plan for financial liberalisation and warned of American protectionist pressures lurking in the background.

The warning was disclosed at the end of two days of high-level U.S.-Japanese talks on internationalising the yen and liberalising Japan's capital and financial markets.

U.S. Treasury Undersecretary Beryl Sprinkel told a press conference that Japanese negotiators had provided many reasons why progress in this field must be gradual.

"But we heard few indications of how the problems might be resolved and brought to a favourable solution. What we seek here is fundamental changes, not marginal steps," Mr. Sprinkel said.

He demanded that the Japanese side must come up with a firm liberalisation plan by the time the next round of negotiations start in Tokyo on March 23.

"We have numerous protectionist pressures, not just in trade but in financial circles. These pressures make it all the more necessary to make progress," Mr. Sprinkel said.

Japanese official sources admitted that the talks between Mr. Sprinkel and Mr. Tomomitsu Oba, Japanese financial vice-minister, had been tough.

Mr. Sprinkel said the yen should be made to live up to its international standing. "If this is to be the case then major progress must be made in the next month," he said.

"We hope at the next meeting Japan will present its plan to internationalise the yen and liberalise its capital markets," he added.

Mr. Oba told the press conference Japan had every intention of working actively to achieve liberalisation but that this had to be a step-by-step process.

He recalled that liberalisation of U.S. interest rates began in 1971 and was fully completed only last year.

"A long time framework is required, although I do not suggest that we will take 10 years," Mr. Oba said.

Asked whether the deadline of a month implied a possibility of retaliation, Mr. Sprinkel said: "No, but we have a limited amount of time to work on these issues."

He said the U.S. wanted not concrete action by March 23 but at least a blueprint for achieving it.

Mr. Sprinkel urged Japanese negotiators to live up to the growing vision of liberalisation jointly outlined by President Reagan and Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone during their meeting in Tokyo last November.

The U.S. hopes that the measures it advocates will make the yen stronger and thereby give American goods a more competitive edge.

With the approach of the U.S. presidential election American negotiators are making strenuous efforts to reduce the huge trade imbalance between Japan and the rest of the Western world.

Friday's negotiations were among a series this week in which continuing difficulties emerged between Japanese and American representatives.

Thursday U.S. trade officials complained strongly about Japanese proposals to change the law in a way which would shorten down to 15 years the present 50-year copyright protection enjoyed by computer software imported into Japan.

In these talks U.S. officials threatened retaliation against Japanese software.

Other discussions on American demands for increased beef and orange sales to Japan also ended with no definite progress.

Swiss bank boosts shareholders' return

ZURICH (R) — Union Bank of Switzerland, the country's largest bank, Thursday raised its dividend payment to shareholders for the first time in 14 years following booming profits in 1983. It reported a 15 per cent rise in profits to 506 million francs (\$232 million) and a 10 per cent dividend rise to 110 francs (\$50) per share. At the same time its president, Mr. Nikolaus Senn, warned that Switzerland and its banks faced dire consequences if voters approved a Socialist Party proposal to ease banking secrecy in a referendum next May. He told journalists that acceptance in the vote would lead to a massive outflow of funds from Switzerland. Mr. Senn also warned of "a massive rise in interest rates, losses of tens of thousands of jobs and a drop in tax revenue."

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime is good for being direct and swift in dashing about and attending to whatever will make conditions about you more in line with what your plan of life most desires.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Make changes that you feel will be helpful to you. Get in touch with a person who can give you assistance.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Reach a better understanding with your mate during the daytime and then go out together in the evening.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) See partners who can help you the most in the future; state your aims clearly, then keep promises you made to them. Be charming.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Seek some new manner of getting your work done more efficiently and study your newspaper for ideas. Be with a practical partner in the evening.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Perfect your hobbies. Don't forget marketing for the weekend. Come to a better understanding with your mate.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Talk over with every family member your wishes and expectations in the future and come to a fine understanding.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get about and see as many persons as you can, but plan to stay at home in the evening. Get Saturday shopping done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Handle financial affairs very well during the daytime and then take time in the evening to visit your friends or relations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get busy at personal matters. The evening is best for handling practical matters. Visit friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Fine day to buy new items for your wardrobe. Then gad about socially in the evening. Be active.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can be very active with your friends during the daytime, but tonight make fine plans for the future.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Handling outside affairs during the daytime brings fine results. Gain the support of some influential person.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who will want to have a good education and will work for tuition, if necessary. Give every opportunity to express the self. One who will definitely become a bigwig here.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Government bonds were the active sector in a mixed market after the Inland Revenue imposed a 40 per cent tax on profits made by building societies in government securities trading, dealers said.

The short-dated sector, in which the societies conduct much of their business, fell sharply in a sell off after hours Thursday. The market recovered its poise on support at the lower levels before slipping back during the afternoon leaving some low coupon stocks as much as two points down while longer maturities were 3/8 lower. At 1500 Friday the F.T. index was up 3.1 at 810.0 and the 1530 S.E. 100 index rose 2.3 to 1034.0.

Equities trading picked up during the afternoon and selected issues gained on end account technical influences, buying interest for the next account and in response to the higher Wall Street opening, dealers said.

ICI rose 16p to 602p after the sharp fall overnight following annual results. Plessey, down on interim results Thursday, gained nine to 215 and Beecham rose 24 to 315 helped by news it bought a controlling interest in Italian pharmaceutical company, Zambelotti. Gold shares declined and North American stocks were mixed but with a firmer bias.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| One sterling | £4655/5665 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.2490/93 | Canadian dollars |
| | 2.6280/90 | West German marks |
| | 2.9710/25 | Dutch guilders |
| | 2.1730/45 | Swiss francs |
| | 53.82/87 | Belgian francs |
| | 8.1075/1125 | French francs |
| | 1631.00/1632.00 | Italian lire |
| | 232.93/233.03 | Japanese yen |
| | 7.8500/50 | Swedish crowns |
| | 7.5700/5800 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 9.6350/6450 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 395.75/396.25 | U.S. dollars |

Israeli banker's suicide may kick up political row

TEL AVIV (R) — The suicide of Israel's most prominent banker while under investigation for alleged irregularities could have widespread political and economic repercussions, according to politicians representing various parties and leaders of the banking world.

Yaacov Levinson, 52, whose financial know-how built the Histadrut trade union federation's Bank Hapoalim into a major institution during his 10-year tenure ending in 1982, shot himself Thursday.

He was under investigation by the police for allegedly transferring bank funds to American companies he ran.

His death stunned Israel and appeared to split the Labour Party, which according to polls has been enjoying growing public support and which hoped to beat the ruling right-wing Likud in the next general elections in 1985.

In a suicide note Mr. Levinson said he could "no longer bear the blood drop by drop."

His widow was quoted by family members as requesting that Histadrut Secretary-General Yeruham Meshel, the head of the

trade union federation's Hevrat Ovdim Holding Company, Daniel Rosolio, and the present director of Bank Hapoalim, Giora Gazit, not attend the funeral Friday.

Abraham Harel, a Labour Party parliamentarian, charged that Mr. Levinson "did not commit suicide, he was murdered."

Mr. Harel and other Labour representatives demanded a party inquiry of the bank and Histadrut.

But former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other Labour Party leaders opposed any investigation.

Likud Party leaders limited their comments on the death but some of them, including parliamentarian Ehud Olmert, said it would "inevitably reflect on the ability of the opposition Labour Party to rule the country."

Chaim Taub, a former Bank of Israel adviser, said Mr. Levinson's death "could have a serious effect on the future direction of the bank and the Histadrut's financial institutions."

Mr. Taub urged that an investigation be held to determine who at Bank Hapoalim "leaked selective and misleading information on Levinson to the news media."

NEWS IN BRIEF

British Airways hit by one-day strike

LONDON (R) — British Airways flights out of London were grounded Friday by a one-day strike by cabin staff and the airline's services from other British airports faced serious disruption, a company spokesman said. About one-third of the airline's 54,500 stewards and stewardesses are involved in the strike, called to press for an increase in a pay offer of four per cent this year and five per cent in 1985. Their average basic pay is about £6,000 (\$8,800), or about £10,000 (\$14,700) with allowances.

Turkish merchant fleet grows by 18.6%

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey's merchant fleet grew by 18.6 per cent to 2.52 million Gross Registered Tons (GRT) in 1983, Captain Necmettin Aktan, secretary general of chamber of sea commerce said here Thursday. He told Reuters the fleet, comprised 687 ships at the end of 1983, compared with 631 totalling 2.13 million GRT a year earlier.

World Bank to lend N. Yemen \$12m

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank said Thursday it has approved a \$12 million credit for a project in the Yemen Arab Republic that will upgrade community facilities and infrastructure in Hodeidah, the country's second largest city. The bank said in a statement the credit will be made through its affiliate, the International Development Association (IDA). It said that 13,000 low-income residents will benefit from the four-year, \$17.9 million project. The bank said the IDA credit is for 50 years, including 10 years of grace.

Paris seeks to send foreign labour home

PARIS (R) — France is negotiating to send some foreign workers home in a major effort to fight unemployment, Immigration Minister Georgina Dufoix said Thursday. Ms. Dufoix said she was negotiating repatriation accords with Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Senegal and Mali to ensure that foreign workers sent home would face minimum difficulties in readjusting. The accords aimed to finance the workers' return and set up professional training schemes in their countries of origin. France has an estimated 3.6 million immigrants. Ms. Dufoix said it was difficult to assess how many would agree to repatriation. She noted the government had had some success in wooing foreigners from France when it offered in January to pay air fare home and 40,000 francs (\$4,678) to immigrants working at a Peugeot car firm near Paris.

Lagos to amend insurance law

LAGOS (OPECNA) — The outflow of foreign exchange from Nigeria through re-insurance premiums is to be brought under control and limited to "absolute essentials", Finance Minister Onaolapo Soyole announced here Thursday.

He told the 13th annual conference of the Insurance Institute of Nigeria that the country's insurance law would be amended to plug loopholes which allowed some insurance brokers and their intermediaries to fail remit premium to insurance companies.

He said the rule of solvency would be incorporated in the amendments to eliminate insurance firms not meeting acceptable standards.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris.



"I'm glad the holiday season is over, I've got four weeks of grumpiness to catch up on!"

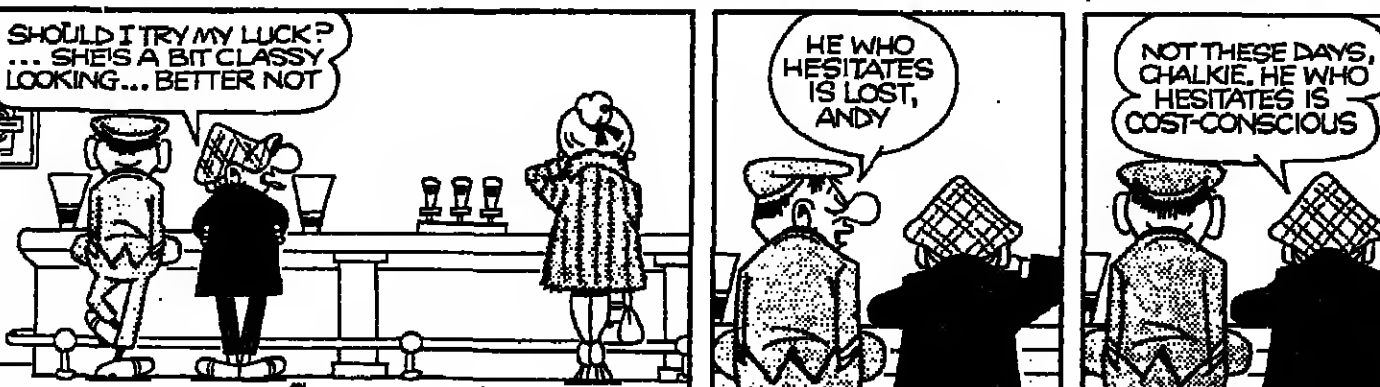
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



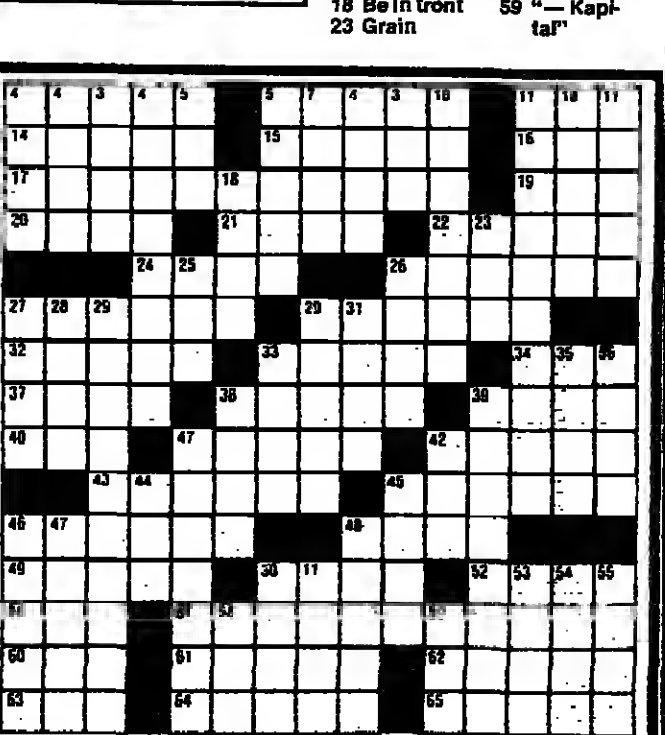
Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword By Martha J. DeWitt

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACROSS | 32 Poplar | 52 Musical passage | 25 Coos Bay's state abbr. |
| 1 Manu | 33 Lucid | 56 Inquire | 26 Char |
| 6 More | 34 Switch sign | 57 Describing a beauty queen | 27 Wag |
| 11 Joker | 37 Actor's part | 60 Kind of plant | 28 — da caccia |
| 14 Fugitive's name | 38 Prickly | 61 Land — (aka head) | 29 Folite in |
| 15 Way | 39 On the deep | 62 An Astaire | 30 Slightness |
| 16 Wind direction | 40 Where Dover is: abbr. | 63 Mass. cape | 31 Hollow |
| 17 Satisfied | 41 Demon | 64 Baking item | 32 Algonquian |
| 19 Mauna — | 42 Common contraction | 65 City on the Meuse | 33 — off (repl) |
| 20 Vend | 43 Harangue | | 36 — Morgana |
| 21 Sunrise locale | 45 Jackson of films | | 38 Coffin platform |
| 22 Kind of heater | 46 Bible's relative | | 39 Long distance |
| 24 Amphibian | 48 Nazimova | | 40 starter |
| 26 Pile | 49 Disintegrator | | 41 Certain road |
| 27 Poltroon | | | 42 — or nothing |
| 30 Slight indication | | | 44 Sp. hero |
| | | | 45 Mountain valley |
| | | | 46 Rope |
| | | | 47 Falonious |
| | | | 48 Wide awake |
| | | | 50 Entreaty |
| | | | 51 Too bad! |
| | | | 53 Dua |
| | | | 54 Rua — Paix |
| | | | 55 Indian Ocean gulf |
| | | | 56 Chemical |
| | | | 58 — anding |
| | | | 59 "— Kapit-" |

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Yesterday's Puzzle Solved: | |
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Manu | 11 Joker |
| 6 More | 14 Fugitive's name |
| 11 Joker | 15 Way |
| 14 Fugitive's name | 16 Wind direction |
| 15 Way | 17 Satisfied |
| 16 Wind direction | 19 Mauna — |
| 17 Satisfied | 20 Vend |
| 19 Mauna — | 21 Sunrise locale |
| 20 Vend | 22 Kind of heater |
| 21 Sunrise locale | 24 Amphibian |
| 22 Kind of heater | 26 Pile |
| 24 Amphibian | 27 Poltroon |
| 26 Pile | 30 Slight indication |
| 27 Poltroon | |
| 30 Slight indication | |



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كثيرا من الناس

U.S. welcomes Soviet move on chemical weapons

GENEVA (Agencies) — The United States welcomed Soviet acceptance of a key principle concerning the destruction of chemical weapons.

The Soviet delegate to the 40-nation Geneva Conference on Disarmament announced on Tuesday that Moscow had agreed reluctantly to permanent on-site verification of chemical weapons destruction by international inspectors.

U.S. Ambassador Louis Fields Thursday called the Soviet move a sign of progress.

"We are pleased that the Soviet government will be prepared to agree to the permanent presence at the destruction site of the representatives of international control and to the use of technical monitoring devices at such sites to augment the verification process," he said.

Verification has been the main stumbling block to a chemical weapons treaty, which has been under discussion by the conference — formerly called the Disarmament Committee — since 1978.

"The acceptance announced by the Soviet ambassador to the conference, Viktor Israelyan, was described by Western experts as a significant concession."

Mr. Israelyan said, however, that he thought the permanent presence of inspectors at destruction sites was unnecessary and occasional or "quota" verification was sufficient.

It was the Kremlin's first major arms control statement under the leadership of Konstantin Chernenko.

Mr. Fields said Washington's own draft treaty banning chemical weapons, announced earlier by Secretary of State George Shultz, would be presented to the conference in the next few months.

A 1925 Geneva protocol banned the use of chemicals in warfare, but not their production or stockpiling.

This year delegates appear relatively confident a treaty outlawing the manufacture, stockpiling and use of chemical arms could be in sight.

Mr. Fields also urged delegates to speed up negotiations on a treaty banning radiological weapons. Such a pact offered the prospect of a modest but real step forward that could eliminate a potentially dangerous type of weapon, he said.

Radiological weapons involve radiation without nuclear blast and have yet to be developed. They do not include the enhanced radiation weapon also known as the neutron bomb.

Soviets stand firm on talks

In Moscow the Communist Party organ Pravda said Friday that all Soviet proposals at the

suspended Nuclear Arms Reduction Talks remain in effect, but "the ball is in the Western court" to make moves to resume the talks.

Pravda analyst Vitaly Korionov addressed the dispute over limiting nuclear arms in Europe in a lengthy editorial that repeated the standard Kremlin position on the negotiations.

"The break-off of the talks was pre-planned in Washington and it was precisely the U.S. that undermined them," Mr. Korionov charged.

The Soviets walked out of the Geneva Medium-Range Arms Reduction Talks last November as the deployment of NATO missiles in Western Europe began. The Kremlin maintains the deployment forced the walkout.

Mr. Korionov said the Soviet Union wants to resume the talks, but added that they must be based on "principles of parity and equal security."

"The Soviet proposals are topical and realistic," he said. "They create a possibility of reaching accords if the NATO countries show readiness for that. The ball is in the Western court."

Mr. Korionov did not specifically mention the often-repeated Soviet refusal to consider resuming the Geneva talks unless the United States "shows readiness" to cancel the NATO deployment, but all Soviet proposals in Geneva included the demand that the deployment be cancelled.



Marshal Dmitry Ustinov

Ustinov says U.S. pushes world towards war

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov accused the United States of pushing the world towards nuclear war and said the Soviet Armed Forces were ready to fight off any attack.

Marshal Ustinov's article in the Communist Party daily Pravda to commemorate Army and Navy Day was the Kremlin's toughest anti-U.S. statement since Konstantin Chernenko succeeded Yuri Andropov as party chief last week.

The leadership change raised Western hopes of an improvement in the East-West climate.

Marshal Ustinov declared: "All Washington's activities in the political, military, economic and ideological fields are directed at achieving world domination and first of all military superiority over the Soviet Union."

The U.S. was accelerating the arms race, particularly with its new European-based missiles, and committing aggression against states and peoples in the Americas, the Middle East, Africa and Asia, he continued.

The Reagan administration attempting to fool the world about its militarism, had now taken to depicting itself as "peace-loving," Marshal Ustinov added.

"But you can't deceive the peoples. They can see ever more clearly how the words of the present U.S. leaders differ from their deeds."

"As before, they are pushing the world towards nuclear catastrophe," he added.

The Soviet Armed Forces, equipped with advanced military equipment and weapons will continue to reliably fulfil their historic mission... they are prepared to give due rebuff to any aggressor," Marshal Ustinov said.

Soviets denounce bomb attack

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Soviet officials have delivered a diplomatic message decrying the early-morning bombing of a Soviet residential compound in New York City as "a barbaric act of terrorism."

"It was only by mere chance that actual loss of life did not occur," read the message issued Thursday by the Soviet embassy in Washington.

"We insist that the U.S. government will see to it that the criminals be severely punished," it said. "In this particular case those involved in their heinous act are well known, they even openly advertise their identity."

Earlier Thursday, a group called Jewish Direct Action (JDA) announced a "war" on Soviet-U.S. relations and said it sympathized with the 3:10 a.m. (0830 GMT) attack, but denied involvement. An anonymous caller to the Associated Press (AP) had said the blast was the JDA's work.

"We're sympathetic to this type of action, though we are law-abiding and non-violent," JDA Chairman Victor Vancier said outside the Soviet mission in

Manhattan. "We didn't do this," FBI Spokesman Joseph Vallette said the attackers apparently tossed three bombs over a fence around the Soviet compound in the Riverside section of the Bronx. Two exploded on the ground, the third on the trunk of an automobile with diplomatic licence plates.

The car burned for nearly 90 minutes until Soviet officials allowed authorities to enter the compound.

Agents of the FBI-police anti-terrorist task force were allowed in to gather evidence for testing at an FBI laboratory in Washington.

The Soviet message also accused the U.S. government of ignoring the Soviet embassy's notification of threats on its members.

After the bombing, a caller to the AP referred to the attack and said: "This is Jewish Direct Action and these activities will not stop until Anatoly Shcharansky is released."

Mr. Shcharansky, 36, a Soviet computer specialist, was denied permission to emigrate to Israel 11 years ago and in 1978 was imprisoned for espionage. His health

reportedly is failing, and several rights groups have taken up his cause.

Before the bombing, JDA had scheduled its news conference outside the Soviet mission to announce that it would harass Soviet diplomats until Soviet Jews are permitted to emigrate.

U.S. condemns attack

In Washington, the State Department Thursday denounced the bomb attack against a housing complex of the Soviet Union's mission to the United Nations.

Department Spokesman John Hughes said the bomb caused extensive damage to a vehicle and started a fire.

"This disgraceful, cowardly attack brings disrepute upon the United States," Mr. Hughes declared in a statement read at a department's daily news briefing. He said the U.S. government condemns "this act of terrorism" and said there is "no place in this country for terrorism, and foreign diplomats must be allowed to carry out their activities without a terrorist threat against them."

Brunei rolls out troops for celebrations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (R) — Brunei paraded its small but lavishly-equipped armed forces before royalty and leaders from about 70 countries Friday to cap two days of colourful independence celebrations.

Sultan Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah stood to attention as tanks and infantry from his 4,000 strong army marched through the narrow streets of the capital to the wall of Scottish haggies.

The 37-year-old autocratic ruler, who arrived in a stretched six-door Rolls-Royce, took the salute alongside Britain's Prince Charles and Malaysia's King Ahmad Shah.

The military display was the last set piece in two days of festivities to mark the end of nearly a century of British rule in the tiny oil-rich state on Borneo's northwest coast.

President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines, President Suharto



Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah

of Indonesia and leaders and royalty from many Western and Commonwealth countries Thursday, attended a mass pageant and glittering state banquet.

The sultanate officially gained independence on New Year's Day. But celebrations were delayed because of a monsoon and

because few foreign dignitaries could travel over the holidays.

The festivities, which have involved most of the country's 210,000 people, mark the handover of responsibility of defence and foreign affairs by London. The Muslim Malay sultanate has been self-governing since 1959 but accepted British protection.

The sultan, in the green uniform of commander-in-chief of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, saluted as two battalions of his British-officered army marched past the royal stand in jungle battle dress.

Among the military hardware on show was the army's newly acquired battery of 12 British-built Rapier/Blindfire anti-aircraft missiles.

A squadron of 16 Scorpion light tanks rumbled past rows of two-storey Chinese shophouses in the wake of 24 pug-nosed armoured personnel carriers.

Basque country protests against senator's murder

BILBAO, Spain (R) — Spain's Basque country was paralysed Friday as thousands of workers staged a general strike in protest against the shooting of a Socialist senator whose death cut short campaigning for Sunday's regional elections.

Union officials said initial reports indicated that a vast majority of the region's 800,000 workers had responded to the 24-hour strike call by Spain's two main labour confederations.

There was no public transport in Bilbao and other Basque cities. Workers were holding meetings at dozens of factories across the region, they said.

A huge turnout was expected later in the day for the funeral in San Sebastian of Senator Enrique Casasa who was killed Thursday by Basque separatist guerrillas.

Sen. Casasa was the first member of the Spanish parliament to be murdered by Basque guerrillas since democracy was restored in Spain after the death of Dictator Francisco Franco in 1975.

The 41-year-old nuclear physicist, a candidate to the Basque autonomous parliament, was a staunch opponent of the separatist guerrilla group ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) and its violent 16-year campaign for an independent Marxist state.

All political sectors blamed ETA for the murder despite conflicting claims of responsibility by groups described by police as fronts for the organisation's most

unpopular actions. Electoral meetings were cancelled and Spain's two labour confederations jointly called a general strike in the region.

Basque Prime Minister Carlos Garaikoetxea, expected to win a second four-year term of office on Sunday, urged Basques to express their rejection of groups supporting ETA with their vote.

In a communique issued in Madrid, the Socialist government of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez called on all Spaniards to co-operate in the eradication of terrorism.

The Herri Batasuna (Popular Unity) Coalition, considered the political arm of ETA, condemned the killing as the work of provocateurs.

Marcos Vascaya, a deputy of the majority Nationalist Basque Party (PNV) to the Madrid parliament, said ETA and Herri Batasuna's allegations that the Madrid government is waging a "dirty war" against Basque guerrillas in the south of France had been indications of impending attacks on Socialist leaders.

The responsibility claims by two groups described by police as ETA offshoots — Mendeku (Revenge) and Anti-Capitalist Autonomous Commandos — repeated allegations of Socialist involvement in the actions of a shadow death squad called Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group (GAL) in the French Basque country.

U.S. Senate approves death penalty bill

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate Wednesday approved a bill that would restore the death penalty for serious federal crimes such as treason and espionage and authorise it as a punishment for attempted assassination of the president.

A U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1972 effectively made the death penalty unconstitutional but since then 38 states have rewritten their laws to overcome the ruling. This said judges had virtually unlimited discretion in imposing the death penalty and had applied it arbitrarily and capriciously.

Twelve people have been executed for murder in recent years under state laws, but Congress has not rewritten laws on capital punishment for federal crimes since the supreme court decision.

French truck drivers lift week-long blockade

PARIS (R) — Truck drivers throughout France began Friday to lift blockades which have paralysed the country's road system for the past week, following a call from their leaders to give up.

Police reported less than 50 blockades throughout the country compared with more than 3,000 Thursday.

"It is lifting, the situation is much, much better," a police spokesman said.

There were still major jams in the south near Narbonne but police said there were no more blockades in the Paris region and the north and northeast were also reported clear.

Salvadorean army forcing people to back right-wingers

SAN SALVADOR (R) — High-ranking Salvadorean officers are violating army regulations by becoming involved in politics and backing candidates in the March 25 presidential elections, labour officials said.

Army commanders in at least three provinces are forcing residents under threat to attend right-wing party rallies, leaders of the Popular Democratic Unity (UPD), said Thursday.

The UPD is El Salvador's largest labour organisation and recently forged a pact with the centrist Christian Democratic Party to meet the challenge of right wing parties in the elections.

The Salvadorean army has pledged to oversee free and fair elections and officially maintains a neutral position.

But UPD leaders said that in the provinces of La Paz, San Miguel and Cahuana "army commanders are acting on behalf of certain political parties."

Since crushing a Communist-led uprising in 1932 the army has played a dominant role in Salvadorean politics and handpicked the country's presidents.

But after a coup ousted the repressive government of General Carlos Humberto Romero in

1979 the army declared it was keeping out of politics.

Politicians and provincial residents, however, reported that officers were adopting behind-the-scenes tactics to influence voters.

In La Paz's capital of Zacatecoluca, Mayor Salvador Avendaño said local commander Colonel Mario Denis Moran would frequently accompany him on rallies to support the right-of-centre National Conciliation Party (PCN).

Residents in Zacatecoluca said that Col. Moran or his subordinates have told them that they can vote for anyone except the Christian Democrats.

Col. Moran told reporters that he was not involved in politics and preferred to keep his personal views to himself.

A military leader in the capital is supporting the extreme right-wing National Republican Alliance Party (ARENA) and instructing his men to press-gang suburban residents into the armed forces or force them to campaign for ARENA.

They said most of the officers' activity was directed against Christian Democrat presidential candidate Jose Napoleon Duarte

Angolan rebels claim capturing 77 foreigners

LISBON (R) — Angolan guerrillas said Friday they had captured 77 foreigners in an attack on a town in the north east diamond mining area.

In a communique distributed in Lisbon UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) said its rebels captured the town of Kafunjo in Lunda province, destroying 340 lorries belonging to the diamond company Diamang. It said 16 British technicians were among the captured foreigners.

The communique said because

it had not been involved in peace negotiations between the Angolan government and Western powers, it had no choice but to intensify its armed opposition.

UNITA, which has been fighting to topple the government since independence from Portugal in 1975, said its battle would continue until Cuban troops helping the Luanda government left the country.

The communique said 15 Filipinos and 46 Portuguese were also captured.

It ended with a warning that no attempt should be made to free the hostages.

"Any intervention, by land or air, against the column of hostages will have serious repercussions on the captives," it said.

UNITA usually marches foreign captives southwards into country it has firmly under control. The rebel movement, led by Jonas Savimbi, is still holding 20 Czechoslovaks, captured last March and several other hostages of different nationalities.

Democrats vow to keep Gulf strait open

GOFFSTOWN, New Hampshire (R) — The eight Democratic presidential contenders said Thursday night they were prepared to use varying degrees of force to keep oil flowing through the Strait of Hormuz to Europe and Japan.

But in a debate here, they refused to answer a question on what they would do if the Soviet Union launched an attack on a European ally of the United States.

In their last organised public discussion before Tuesday's New Hampshire primary election, they agreed that the nuclear attack question was one that must not be answered.

"That is one of the toughest problems in the whole world and almost by definition it is important that question not be answered," said Democratic frontrunner Walter Mondale.

Rival John Glenn, who has been harsher on Mr. Mondale than any other contender for the Democratic presidential nomination,

said: "I find myself in agreement with Mr. Mondale on some things and that is one of them... we have a deterrent against the Soviet Union so long as they are not sure what we will do."

But the Democrats left no doubt that if Iran carried out its threat to close the Strait of Hormuz, they would take action.

"There are some things worth fighting for," said Jesse Jackson, who has bitterly opposed the U.S. invasion of Grenada and the U.S. intervention in Lebanon.

The Democrats stressed that they would consult with America's European allies before any action were taken. One candidate, California Senator Alan Cranston, said it would be important to talk to the Soviet Union.

They were split on what they would do if a Communist insurrection occurred in Mexico, with Senator Ernest Hollings suggesting that strong U.S. action

would be required. But Mr. Mondale said: "We must let those to the south of us work out their own destinies. There is not an American approach to every problem."

Clashes between the candidates were kept to a minimum and each tried to project a positive image of himself to New Hampshire voters.

But one conflict occurred when the subject of the Iran hostage crisis was raised.

Mr. Mondale, who was vice-president in the Carter administration, praised the handling of the situation.

"Every one of those hostages is home with their families tonight because we didn't do something wild and crazy that might have killed them," he said.

But Colorado Senator Gary Hart brought up the aborted military rescue mission which Mr. Carter launched, saying the U.S. military was not prepared to handle such an assignment.

Transplant side-effects kill 'bubble boy'

HOUSTON (R) — David, the boy who spent virtually all his 12 years of life in a germ-free bubble, was probably killed by a bone marrow transplant designed to cure his lack of immunity to disease, one of his doctors said Thursday.

Dr. William Shearer told a press conference in Houston that the boy died of complications probably caused by the transplant from his 15-year-old sister Katherine last October.

David, whose identity was kept secret to preserve his family's privacy, was born on Sept. 21, 1971 with a rare condition known as Severe Combined Immune Deficiency.

He was placed in a germ-free plastic cocoon at birth and lived in ever-larger bubbles at the hospital and in his home until emerging for

the first time two weeks ago, already ill.

Dr. Shearer, who was in tears for much of the hour-long press conference, said David made light of his situation until he could no longer speak. When he told the boy he would have to be sedated, "David winked at me, and that was it."

The doctor said David slowly slipped away all day Wednesday with his parents and sister by his side in Texas Children's Hospital.

"At 8 p.m., I pronounced David dead," the doctor added. He said David's death was "as unique as his life."

Doctors feared David might be suffering from the condition even before he was born as an elder brother had died of it after only a few months. Dr. Shearer said. They hoped his body would dev-

elop an immunity to disease as he grew up, but it never did.

Dr. Shearer decided to try to cure his condition last October by injecting him with treated bone marrow from his sister, hoping the cells would take hold in his body and fight disease.

But when the boy became ill for the first time in his life, doctors freed him from his quarantine on Feb. 7 to treat him for fever, vomiting and diarrhoea.

His condition worsened despite doctors' efforts. When fluid accumulated around his lungs and heart Wednesday, David was placed on a respirator to help his breathing, but to no avail.

Dr. Shearer said preliminary autopsy results indicated David died from a malignancy called B-cell lymphoma.

COLUMN 8

Deaf juror rejected by lawyer

NEW YORK (R) — A deaf man hoping to become a juror at the trial of a non-English speaking defendant who has a blind woman as his interpreter, but the defence lawyer objects. Deaf college student Alec Naiman, 29, sat through jury selection in Manhattan Supreme Court with a sign-language interpreter at his side. Alleged drug-dealer Hector Guzman had a blind interpreter at his side and listened as she translated the proceedings from English into Spanish. Guzman's lawyer Oscar Finkel says he does not want Naiman as a juror because his affliction would mean he might miss the nuances of the case. Judge Budd Goodman, however, said: there was nothing in the law to prevent Naiman from being a juror — although the lawyer could challenge his right to sit on the panel.

Haydn's work found in the attic

BALLYCARRY, Northern Ireland (R) — The manuscript of a long-lost mass by the Austrian composer Joseph Haydn has been discovered in a farmer's attic. The work, in Haydn's own hand and called "Miss Saint Bona Mixta Malis" (the good is mixed with the bad), is expected to fetch at least £20,000 (\$29,000) when it is put up for sale on March 28, Christie's Auction House said. Farmer John McClintock found the mass, which is incomplete, in a music album belonging to his late mother. There was also a page of Beethoven's musical notes. The Haydn work was authenticated by Professor H.C. Robbins Landon, a world authority on the composer, who said the find was "of great significance to Haydn scholarship."

Buried monuments found in Scotland

EDINBURGH (R) — A buried Iron Age village and ancient monuments, including three Roman forts, have been discovered in Scotland because of a very dry summer last year, officials said. The weather caused parch markings to form in distinctive patterns in cereal crops and pastures, revealing the locations of the monuments, according to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Gordon Maxwell, a commission investigator, said trial excavations had revealed three first-century forts in eastern Scotland, built to protect Roman-occupied territory from hostile native tribes. The find also included long timber halls five or six thousand years old, an Iron Age village and burial sites.

'Chicago Egg' to measure rays

CHICAGO (AP) — An experimental instrument package called the "Chicago Egg" was shipped Monday to Cape Canaveral, Florida, where it will be hauled into orbit aboard a space shuttle next year to measure cosmic rays. The University of Chicago package of Cosmic Ray Detectors, sealed inside a 1-ft-by-12 foot (3x3.6 metre), egg-shaped aluminium shell, is scheduled to be taken into orbit in March 1985. It is the 32nd University of Chicago experiment built for space flight since 1958, and by far the largest at 2,268 kilogrammes.

Free sex religious sect growing

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A controversial free sex, Christian-based sect from the United States, Canada and New Zealand called "Children of God" has gathered 14,500 followers in Indonesia, police said Monday. A police spokesman said the sect is developing rapidly in the densely populated area of Jogjakarta, central Java, where it has 3,000 followers. There also are 5,000 in Jakarta, 2,000 in Bandung in west Java, 300 in Purwokerto in central Java, 3,600 in Semarang and 600 in Solo, central Java, the spokesman said. One sect member said followers were generally lonely men and women who found a "sense of well-being" to replace their feelings of isolation after joining the sect. In Jogjakarta, 70 per cent of the members are high school and university students who were disappointed in love, the Department of Religion said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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GET BY WITH SOME HELP FROM FRIENDS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 642

♥ KQ107

♦ 853

♣ 976

WEST

♠ K109

♥ 64

♦ KJ9

♣ QJ1082

EAST

♠ J853

♥ 9853

♦ 10764

♣ 43

SOUTH

♠ AQ7

♥ AJ2

♦ AQ2

♣ AK54

The bidding:

South West North East

2NT Pass 3NT Pass

Pass Pass</